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Contact: Ashley Ginascol (312-729-3622)

**DOWNINGTON HIGH SCHOOL EAST STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 12, 2011) — In its 26th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Kelly Kerrigan of Downingtown High School East as its 2010-11 Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Kerrigan is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Downingtown High School East.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Kerrigan as Pennsylvania's best high school girls soccer player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Soccer Player of the Year award to be announced in May, Kerrigan joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook HS, Mich.), Heather O'Reilly (2001-02, East Brunswick HS, N.J.) and Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.).

The 5-foot-6 junior midfielder recorded 14 goals and 25 assists this past season, leading the Cougars to the second round of the fall campaign's Class AAA state tournament. A *Philadelphia Inquirer* All-Southeastern Pennsylvania selection, Kerrigan is a member of the U.S. Youth Soccer 1993 Region I Olympic Development Program team. She has recorded 30 goals and 42 assists in her prep soccer career.

Kerrigan has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally with the YMCA and as part of fundraising campaigns to benefit the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the Red Cross relief effort in Japan.

"Kelly is the best playmaker and pure soccer player I have ever coached," said Craig Reed, head coach of Downingtown High East. "Her technical ability, vision, ability to use both feet and aerial game set her apart from any other player in the state."

Kerrigan has verbally committed to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Virginia's James Madison University beginning in the fall of 2012.

The Gatorade Player of the Year program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by ESPN RISE and the Gatorade high school sports leadership team, which work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Kerrigan joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Soccer Players of the Year Cassie Pecht, (2009-10, Cumberland Valley), Taylor Schram (2008-09, Canon-McMillan), and Lauren Alwine (2007-08, Lower Dauphin) among the state's list of former award winners.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. For more on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of past winners, and the announcement of the Gatorade National Player of the Year, visit playeroftheyear.gatorade.com.

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