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**HILLCREST HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH CAROLINA 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 Stephanie DeVita of Hillcrest High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade South Carolina Girls Soccer Player of the Year. DeVita is the first Gatorade South Carolina Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Hillcrest High School.

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 DeVita as South Carolina'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, DeVita 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-7 junior midfielder recorded 21 goals and six assists this past season, leading the Rams (13-11) to the Class 4A state tournament for a second straight year. The 2009-10 Gatorade South Carolina Girls Soccer Player of the Year, DeVita was a 2010 South Carolina Soccer Coaches Association First Team All-State selection and is a two-time First Team All-Region II-4A honoree. She has recorded 61 goals and 20 assists in her prep soccer career.

DeVita has maintained a 3.50 GPA in the classroom. A member of her local Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter, she has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach.

"Stephanie is a force," said Sue Vodicka, a coach with the South Carolina Youth Soccer Association's Olympic Development Program. "She can do some special things. She can make something out of nothing."

DeVita has verbally committed to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Furman 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.

Two-time winner DeVita joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Girls Soccer Players of the Year Sarah Schaidle (2008-09, Mauldin) and Kira Campbell (2007-08, Lexington) 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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