

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Ashley Ginascol (312-729-3622)

**GATE CITY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE VIRGINIA 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 Anna McClung of Gate City High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Virginia Girls Soccer Player of the Year. McClung is the first Gatorade Virginia Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Gate City 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 McClung as Virginia'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, McClung 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-10 sophomore forward has led the Blue Devils to an 8-1 record entering this week's regular-season contest against Honaker High, scheduled for May 12. McClung scored 33 goals and passed for five assists through nine games. A member of the U.S. Soccer Federation Under-18 Women's National Team, McClung set a state single-season record with 65 goals as a freshman in 2010, leading Gate City to the Group A state semifinals in its second year as a varsity program. Entering this week's game, she has 98 goals and a state-record 21 hat tricks in 24 career games.

McClung has maintained an A average in the classroom. An American Character Award winner as voted by Gate City High faculty, she has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach and on behalf of the Scott County Recreation Department. She has also donated her time to a local literacy-outreach program.

"What makes Anna special is she's always, always looking to score goals," said Campbell Chapman, the director of coaching for McClung's club team, the Gwinnett Soccer Association in Lilburn, Ga. "Her scoring at every level is amazing. Everywhere she goes, she scores. She's a special kid. She just has this mental approach of scoring goals which is what it's all about."

McClung has verbally committed to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Florida State University beginning in the fall of 2013.

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.

McClung joins recent Gatorade Virginia Girls Soccer Players of the Year two-time winner Jenna Richmond, (2008-09 & 2009-10, Centreville) and Brook Chang (2007-08, Bishop O'Connell) 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.

###