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**LA FOLLETTE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE WISCONSIN 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 Morgan LaPlant of La Follette High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Soccer Player of the Year. LaPlant is the first Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from La Follette 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 LaPlant as Wisconsin'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, LaPlant 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-1 senior forward has led the Lancers to an 8-2-1 record entering this week's regular-season contest with Madison East High, scheduled for May 12. LaPlant scored 12 goals and passed for four assists through 11 games. A First Team All-City selection each of the last three years, she owns the school career goals record with 104. LaPlant was named All-State Best of the Rest after her sophomore and junior seasons.

LaPlant has maintained a 3.70 GPA in the classroom. A religious education instructor at her church, she has volunteered locally on behalf the Salvation Army and has participated in several service-mission trips to repair homes for the underprivileged.

"She's quick to the ball, has an excellent first touch and sees the field very well," said Julie Grutzner, head coach of rival Oregon High. "She's just dominant at her position."

LaPlant has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee this fall.

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.

LaPlant joins recent Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Soccer Players of the Year Alex Melin, (2009-10, Verona Area), Taylor Madigan (2008-09, Waunakee), and Laurel Ragalie (2007-08, Bradford) 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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