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**OAK MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE ALABAMA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 23, 2012) — In its 27th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced Bailee Harnett of Oak Mountain High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Alabama Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Harnett is the first Gatorade Alabama Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Oak Mountain 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 Harnett as Alabama'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, Harnett 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-5 senior midfielder led the Eagles to a 28-2 record and the Class 6A state title this past season. Harnett scored 29 goals and passed for 33 assists, including three goals and four assists in Oak Mountain's five-game run in the state tournament. A 2011 Birmingham News All-Metro selection, Harnett made the All-Tournament Team at the 2012 Southern Shootout and Lakeshore Shootout. She concluded her prep soccer career with 39 goals and 46 assists.

Harnett has maintained a 3.88 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Mu Alpha Theta mathematics honor society, she has volunteered locally with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Birmingham and at The Regions Tradition golf tournament to support Children's of Alabama hospital.

"Bailee Harnett has grown to become one of the best players in the state of Alabama and has had success at every level," said Jason Lockhart, Harnett's former club coach with Birmingham United. "She is a major player for every team she plays for."

Harnett will attend the Air Force Academy this fall, where she will play soccer.

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 ESPNHS 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.

Harnett joins recent Gatorade Alabama Girls Soccer Players of the Year Simone Charley (2010 - 11, Spain Park High School), Annalika Steyn, (2009-10, Spain Park), Lauren Arnold (2008-09 Spain Park), Mary Nicholson (2007-08, Vestavia Hills), and Victoria Frederick (2006-07, Huntsville) 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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