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**VALOR CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE COLORADO 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 Janine Beckie of Valor Christian High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Colorado Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Beckie is the first Gatorade Colorado Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Valor Christian 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 Beckie as Colorado'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, Beckie 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-8 senior forward and midfielder scored 24 goals and passed for 17 assists this past season, leading the Eagles (11-5-3) to the Class 4A state semifinals. A member of the U.S. Soccer Under-18 Women's National Team and a 2011 Class 4A First Team All-State selection, she concluded her prep soccer career with 63 goals and 35 assists.

Beckie has maintained a B average in the classroom. A member of the Valor Student Athletic Leadership Council, she has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach and on behalf of World Vision, a charity which sponsors children in Africa.

"Janine Beckie is a dynamic playmaker who has a great understanding and awareness when she plays," said Dan Watkins, head coach of rival Wheat Ridge High. "She possesses great technical skill, and when you combine that with her speed and understanding of the game she is someone you have to pay attention to for all 80 minutes."

Beckie has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Texas Tech University 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 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.

Beckie joins recent Gatorade Colorado Girls Soccer Players of the Year Annie Kunz (2009-10 & 2010 - 11, Wheat Ridge High School), Olivia Wagner (2008-09 Dawson School), Beth West (2007-08, Grandview), and Brittney MacDonald (2006-07, J.K. Mullen) 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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