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**PADUA ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE DELAWARE 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 Casey Horney of Padua Academy as its 2011-12 Gatorade Delaware Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Horney is the third Gatorade Delaware Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Padua Academy.

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 Horney as Delaware'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, Horney 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-6 senior forward/midfielder led the Pandas to a 14-0-1 record entering a state-tournament match against St. George's, scheduled for May 23. Horney scored 10 goals and passed for 19 assists through 15 games. She is a three-time All-State selection.

Horney has maintained a 3.49 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Blue-Gold Club, which raises funds and organizes activities for special needs students.

"Casey Horney is the complete package," said Eddie Gibbons, head coach at St. Elizabeth High. "She has great technique on the ball, with explosive speed to get behind defenders, and she consistently makes good decisions."

Horney has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Delaware 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.

Horney joins recent Gatorade Delaware Girls Soccer Players of the Year Caitlin Forte (2010 - 11, Indian River High School), Jazmine Reeves, (2008-09 & 2009-10, Caesar Rodney), Morgan Morrow (2007-08, Padua Academy), and Brittiny Rhoades (2006-07, Padua Academy) 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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