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**ST. JOHN'S COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE FLORIDA 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 Carson Pickett of St. John's Country Day School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Florida Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Pickett is the first Gatorade Florida Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from St. John's Country Day 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 Pickett as Florida'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, Pickett 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 midfielder led the Spartans to a 23-2-2 record and the Class 1A state title this past season. Pickett scored 52 goals and passed for 36 assists, including 11 goals and seven assists in St. John's five-game postseason run. Pickett was the 2012 Florida Dairy Farmers Female Soccer Player of the Year and the Class 1A State Player of the Year. A six-year varsity player, she concluded her prep soccer career with 150 goals and 152 assists.

Pickett has maintained a B average in the classroom. A member of her local Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter, she has volunteered locally as part of a fundraising campaign to benefit diabetes research and as a youth soccer coach.

"Carson Pickett is one of the best players I have seen," said Tony Cuthbertson, head coach of rival Christ's Church Academy. "She is very sound technically and capable of beating you in many ways. She is also a very unselfish playmaker who truly makes everyone around her a better player."

Pickett has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Florida State University this fall.

Sonnett has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the University of Virginia 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.

Pickett joins recent Gatorade Florida Girls Soccer Players of the Year Meg Casscells-Hamby (2010 - 11, Trinity Preparatory School), Katie Stengel, (2009-10, Viera), Laura Weinberg (2008-09 Saint Andrew's School), Katie Jackson (2007-08, Satellite), and Ella Stephan (2006-07, Satellite) 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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