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**ASSUMPTION HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE IOWA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 23, 2012) — In its 27<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced Rose Ripslinger of Assumption High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Iowa Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Ripslinger is the first Gatorade Iowa Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Assumption 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 Ripslinger as Iowa'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, Ripslinger 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 returning Gatorade Iowa Girls Soccer Player of the Year, the 5-foot-5 sophomore forward led the Knights to a 16-0 record entering this week's regular-season finale against Davenport Central High, scheduled for May 22. Ripslinger scored 15 goals and passed for 10 assists through 16 games. A member of the U.S. Youth Soccer Region II Olympic Development Program team and the 2012 Quad-City Times Female Athlete of the Year, she was a 2011 Class 1A First Team All-State selection and was honorary captain of the 2011 Class 1A All-Tournament Team.

Ripslinger has maintained a 3.67 GPA in the classroom. A two-time Class 3A state runner-up in the 400-meter dash as a member of the Assumption High Track and Field Team, she has volunteered locally as part of American Red Cross blood-donation drives and at the Ronald McDonald House in addition to donating her time on behalf of multiple community service initiatives in association with her church youth group.

"Rose Ripslinger is such a great offensive player," said Dion Ayers, head coach of North Scott-Eldridge High. "She makes all the players around her better. She has tremendous speed and does a great job moving without the ball. She makes any team change its tactics on how to play her and Assumption."

Ripslinger will begin her junior year of high school 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.

Two-time winner Ripslinger joins Gatorade Iowa Girls Soccer Players of the Year MacKenzie Misel, (2009-10, Ankeny), Jade Grimm (2008-09 Kennedy), and Whitney Sharpe (2006-07 & 2007-08, Valley), 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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