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**LEE'S SUMMIT NORTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE MISSOURI 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 Allie Stephenson of Lee's Summit North High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Missouri Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Stephenson is the second Gatorade Missouri Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Lee's Summit North 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 Stephenson as Missouri'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, Stephenson 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-2 senior midfielder led the Broncos to a 20-3 record entering the Class 3 state tournament, scheduled to begin May 22. Stephenson scored 25 goals and passed for seven assists through 23 games, scoring at least one goal in 17 of the 23 contests. A 2011 Youth All-American selection for club play by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Stephenson is a three-time Class 3 First Team All-State honoree and a three-time member of the *Kansas City Star* All-Metro First Team. Entering the state tournament, she had recorded 110 goals and 57 assists in her prep soccer career.

Stephenson has maintained a 3.56 GPA in the classroom. A member of her school's Student Activity Advisory Council, she has volunteered locally with Project Uplift to help the homeless and needy, and she has served on a service-mission trip to Guatemala.

"Allie Stephenson is a fantastic player," said Dave Wiebenga, head coach of rival Lee's Summit High. "We have always had to account for her on the field. She has exceptional vision and she is technically very sound. I feel that as she goes, Lee's Summit North goes."

Stephenson has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Oklahoma State 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.

Stephenson joins recent Gatorade Missouri Girls Soccer Players of the Year Shea Groom (2009-10 & 2010 - 11, Liberty High School), Morgan Marlborough (2008-09 Lee's Summit North), Molly Campbell (2007-08, St. Teresa's Academy), and Lauren Fowlkes (2006-07, St. Teresa's 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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