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**BISHOP KELLEY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE OKLAHOMA 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 Kaela Little of Bishop Kelley High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Little is the second Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Bishop Kelley 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 Little as Oklahoma'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, Little 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-10 junior goalkeeper recorded 12 shutouts and allowed just seven goals this past season, leading the Comets (17-0) to the Class 6A state title and a No. 5 ranking nationally in the ESPNHS Fab 50. An All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Little was also named to the Tulsa World All-Metro Team.

Little has maintained a 4.47 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of Habitat for Humanity, the March of Dimes and youth soccer programs.

"Little is a great shot stopper and a great, great soccer player overall," said Jake Kurey, head coach at Putnam City North High. "She has an ability to play with the ball at her feet that sets her apart from most goalkeepers. She's like a field player in goal."

Little will begin her senior 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.

Little joins recent Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Soccer Players of the Year Liz Keester (2010 - 11, Jenks High School), Hayley Harryman, (2009-10, Edmond North), Caitlin Mooney (2008-09 Edmond Sante Fe), Katie Bykowski (2007-08, Bishop Kelley), and Rebecca Allen (2006-07, Jenks) 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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