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**PETERS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA 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 Veronica Latsko of Peters Township High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Latsko is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Peters Township 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 Latsko as Pennsylvania'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, Latsko 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 sophomore forward led the Indians to a 20-3-1 record and a second straight Class AAA state title this past fall season. Latsko scored 45 goals and passed for 15 assists, and she scored the only goal in Peters' 1-0 win over Pennridge in the state title game. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Player of the Year and an All-Region II selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Latsko notched nine hat tricks and 15 multi-goal games in her second varsity campaign. Through her sophomore year, she had recorded 80 goals and 27 assists in her prep soccer career.

Latsko has maintained a 4.5 weighted GPA in the classroom. A member of Students Against Destructive Decisions, she has volunteered locally at the Hundred Acres Manor Haunted House and as part of her school's Interact Club.

"Athletically, Veronica Latsko is unbelievable," said Randi Rohm, Latsko's club coach with Century United. "She has this natural nose for the goal. She always finds the back of the net. Any way possible, she does it."

Latsko 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.

Latsko joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Soccer Players of the Year Kelly Kerrigan (2010 - 11, Downingtown High School East), Cassie Pecht, (2009-10, Cumberland Valley), Taylor Schram (2008-09 Canon-McMillan), Lauren Alwine (2007-08, Lower Dauphin), and Colleen Flanagan (2006-07, Downingtown West) 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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