

**Contact: Ashley Ginascol (312-729-3622)**

**GATE CITY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE VIRGINIA 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 Anna McClung of Gate City High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Virginia Girls Soccer Player of the Year. McClung is the first Gatorade Virginia Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Gate City 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 McClung as Virginia'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, McClung 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 Virginia Girls Soccer Player of the Year, the 5-foot-10 junior forward led the Blue Devils to a 15-0 record entering this week's regular-season finale against Lee High, scheduled for May 23. McClung scored a state-record 79 goals and passed for 15 assists through 15 games and had 14 games with at least four goals. A member of the U.S. Soccer Under-18 Women's National Team, McClung is the state career record-holder with 206 goals, which she has tallied in just 48 starts. The 2011 Region D Player of the Year and a two-time Group A First team All-State selection, she scored a then-state record 65 goals as a freshman and 62 as a sophomore.

McClung has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics and as part of an area beautification project. McClung also won her school's American Character Award as voted by the student body and the Citizenship Award as voted on by faculty.

"Anna is a prolific goal-scorer," said Brian Moore, McClung's club coach with the Concorde (Ga.) Fire. "She has a potent shot from distance and finishes almost everything in the box. Her size and strength allow her to be a good target forward as well as one who can get in behind you."

McClung has verbally committed to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Florida State University, beginning in the fall of 2013. She plans to graduate high school this December before matriculating at FSU to begin spring semester classes.

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 McClung (2010 - 11, Gate City High School) joins Gatorade Virginia Girls Soccer Players of the Year Jenna Richmond, (2008-09 & 2009-10, Centreville), Brook Chang (2007-08, Bishop O'Connell), and Liz Carroll (2006-07, Bishop O'Connell) 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).