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**SIDWELL FRIENDS SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 9, 2012) — In its 27th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced Kara Wilson of Sidwell Friends School as its 2011-12 Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Wilson is the second Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Sidwell Friends 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 Wilson as District of Columbia'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, Wilson 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-9 senior midfielder scored 19 goals and passed for 11 assists this past season, leading the Quakers (14-1-1) to the Independent School League Tournament semifinals. The returning Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Soccer Player of the Year, Wilson is a two-time Washington Post First Team All-Met selection and a member of the U.S. Youth Soccer Region I Olympic Development Program team. She concluded her prep soccer career with 45 goals and 27 assists.

Wilson has maintained a B average in the classroom. A staff writer for Sidwell's school newspaper, The Horizon, she has volunteered locally at an assisted living facility recently and completed a service-mission trip to Philadelphia, where she started a camp for inner-city children.

"Kara is outstanding, marrying pace and physique to technical skill," said Zeff Yusof, head coach of Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School. "She used her height well and had a physical presence that intimidated the younger, smaller players. But more impressively she always seemed to be in the right position."

Wilson has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Duke University beginning 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.

Wilson joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Soccer Players of the Year Taylor Bryant (2009-10, Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School), Bailey Bodell (2008-09, St. John's College High School), Tiffany McCarty (2007-08 & 2006-07, St. John's College High School), 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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