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**ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE IDAHO 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 Brooke Heidemann of Rocky Mountain High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Idaho Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Heidemann is the first Gatorade Idaho Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Rocky Mountain 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 Heidemann as Idaho'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, Heidemann 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-5 senior midfielder led the Grizzlies to a 15-1-4 record and the Class 5A state championship this past season. Heidemann scored 14 goals and passed for 24 assists while being named the Class 5A Southern Idaho Conference Player of the Year. A National Soccer Coaches Association of America All-Far West Region selection, Heidemann recorded an assist in Rocky Mountain's 1-0 state title-clinching win over Boise High in the state final. She concluded her prep soccer career with 42 goals and 64 assists.

Heidemann has maintained a 3.95 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of Meridian's elderly residents and as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with her church youth group.

"Brooke is an extraordinary player who possesses tremendous soccer abilities and leadership skills," said Steve Lynch, head coach of Meridian High. "Without her, Rocky Mountain would not have achieved its success, especially the state title."

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

Heidemann joins recent Gatorade Idaho Girls Soccer Players of the Year Sofia Huerta (2010-11 & 2009-10, Centennial High School), Miah Mollay (2008-09, Boise High School), Halley Kreminski (2007-08, Eagle High School), and Brandy Hickcox (2006-07, Capital) 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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