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**ST. HENRY DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE KENTUCKY 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 ESPN HS, today announced Libby Leedom of St. Henry District High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Kentucky Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Leedom is the first Gatorade Kentucky Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Henry District 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 Leedom as Kentucky'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, Leedom 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 junior midfielder and forward scored 23 goals and passed for 13 assists this past season, leading the Crusaders (18-4) to the 9th Region championship game. The Kentucky Enquirer Player of the Year, Leedom is a two-time First Team All-State selection and was named 2010 State Tournament MVP when she led St. Henry to the state title. She has 86 goals and 33 assists through three varsity seasons.

Leedom has maintained a 4.28 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of a fundraising campaign to benefit breast cancer research and as a youth soccer coach.

"Libby Leedom played multiple positions and her greatest quality is her ability to play great soccer while making her teammates better," said Edmundo Echeverria, Ryle High head coach. "She makes her team better and elevates the level of play of those players around her."

Leedom has verbally committed to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the University of Dayton beginning in the fall of 2013.

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.

Leedom joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Girls Soccer Players of the Year Arin Gilliland (2010-11, West Jessamine High School), Jackie Hafele, (2009-10, Sacred Heart Academy), Nikki Hafele (2008-09, Sacred Heart Academy), Jenna Goblirsch (2007-08, Elizabethtown High School), and Sydney Hiance (2006-07, lands) 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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