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**MCDONOGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MARYLAND 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 Ashley Spivey of McDonogh School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Maryland Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Spivey is the second Gatorade Maryland Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from McDonogh 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 Spivey as Maryland'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, Spivey 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-10 senior forward led the Eagles to an 18-3 record and the Independent Athletic Association of Maryland Conference A state title this past season. Spivey scored 18 goals and passed for 16 assists, recording three goals and five assists in three postseason games. A member of the U.S. Soccer Under-18 Women's National Team, Spivey is a three-time All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America and a two-time Baltimore Sun All-Metro Player of the Year. She concluded her prep career with 78 goals and 59 assists.

Spivey has maintained a 3.72 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as an elementary school aide, at a food bank and with Habitat for Humanity.

"Ashley was both our leading scorer and assist-getter and our most consistent performer," said McDonogh head coach Harry Canellakis. "She has consistently forced other teams to change the way they tactically set up against us, which shows the fear and respect that she has garnered around the league."

Spivey has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the University of Maryland 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.

Spivey joins recent Gatorade Maryland Girls Soccer Players of the Year Alex Doll (2010-11 & 2009-10, Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School), Caroline Miller (2008-09, Walter Johnson High School), and Christine Nairn (2007-08 & 2006-07, Archbishop Spalding 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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