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**CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MINNESOTA 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 Jenna Roering of Centennial High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Minnesota Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Roering is the first Gatorade Minnesota Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Centennial 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 Roering as Minnesota'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, Roering 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 forward scored 34 goals and passed for 12 assists this past season, leading the Cougars (18-2-2) to the Class AA state semifinals. A member of the U.S. Soccer Under-17 Women's National Team player pool, Roering is a two-time Minnesota State High School Soccer Coaches Association Class AA First Team All-State selection and a two-time Class AA All-State Tournament Team honoree. She has 70 goals and 26 assists to this point in her prep career.

Roering has maintained a 3.39 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach and mentor, as part of area food drives for the needy and as a peer promoter of healthy eating in the Centennial High cafeteria.

"Jenna Roering is a forward who is always dangerous and can create things on her own and create for her teammates," said Mark Obarski, head coach of Eagan High. "She has great speed and is the most dangerous forward I have seen in a long time."

Roering has verbally committed to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Santa Clara University 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.

Roering joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Girls Soccer Players of the Year Taylor Uhl (2010-11, Eden Prairie High School), Kasey Kallman, (2009-10, Woodbury), Catie Sessions (2008-09, Woodbury High School), Krista Lundgren (2007-08, Lakeville South High School), and Angie Olson (2006-07, Eagan) 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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