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## HOUSTON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE TENNESSEE GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (February 9, 2012) — In its 27<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced Olivia Harrison of Houston High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Tennessee Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Harrison is the first Gatorade Tennessee Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Houston 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 Harrison as Tennessee'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, Harrison 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-7 senior forward scored 31 goals and passed for 15 assists this past season, leading the Mustangs (18-3-2) to the Class AAA state semifinals. A two-time Memphis Commercial Appeal Best of the Preps winner, Harrison is also a two-time All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America and a two-time Tennessee High School Soccer Coaches Association Player of the Year. She led Houston to the 2010 Class AAA state title and concluded her prep career with 106 goals and 65 assists.

Harrison has maintained a 3.02 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Houston High Science Club, she has volunteered locally at an animal shelter, as a youth leader at her church and with the U.S Youth Soccer TOPSoccer program serving young athletes with disabilities.

"Olivia Harrison has the ability to take over entire games and do anything necessary for her team to win," said Matt Sugg, Germantown High head coach. "The runs she makes as a striker are precise and calculated, but she also has the ability to find gaps in a defense and take immediate advantage of their faults."

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

Harrison joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Girls Soccer Players of the Year Kat Nigro (2010–11 & 2009–10, Livingston Academy), Susannah Dennis (2008–09 & 2007–08, Battle Ground Academy), and Kelly Dyer (2006–07, St. Agnes Academy) 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.