

Contact: Lauren Rollins (312-729-3607)

**INTERLAKE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE WASHINGTON 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 Isabel Farrell of Interlake High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Washington Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Farrell is the first Gatorade Washington Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Interlake 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 Farrell as Washington'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, Farrell 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 Saints to a 17-3-1 record and the Class 2A state championship this past season. In her only season of high school soccer, Farrell scored nine goals and passed for 14 assists, including an assist on the lone goal in Interlake's 1-0 win over Cedarcrest High in the state final. A member of the U.S. Soccer Under-18 Women's National Team and a two-time Youth All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America for club play, she was named the Washington State Soccer Coaches Association Class 2A State MVP.

Farrell has maintained a 3.57 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Mercer Island Boys & Girls Club, the International District/Chinatown Community Center and as a youth soccer coach.

"I have never seen a player like Izzy Farrell at the high school level," said Nicole Dahl Nelson, Mercer Island High head coach. "When she played against us, it was like she was just having fun, and then when she decided she wanted to take over the game, she would beat four players and score upper corner from outside the box."

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

Farrell joins recent Gatorade Washington Girls Soccer Players of the Year Brooke Gilbert (2010-11, Glacier Peak High School), Lindsay Elston, (2009-10, Eastlake), Emily Hurd (2008-09, Eastlake High School), and Kate Deines (2007-08 & 2006-07, Issaquah 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.

###