

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lauren Rollins (312-729-3607)

**WINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA 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 Haleigh Hoff of Winfield High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade West Virginia Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Hoff is the first Gatorade West Virginia Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Winfield 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 Hoff as West Virginia'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, Hoff 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 senior forward scored 27 goals and passed for 11 assists this past season, leading the Generals (19-3-1) to the Class AAA state championship game. The 2011 Class AAA Player of the Year as named by the West Virginia Soccer Coaches Association and the West Virginia Sports Writers Association, Hoff was an All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America and a two-time Class AAA First Team All-State honoree. She concluded her prep career with 81 goals and 51 assists.

Hoff maintained a 3.92 GPA in the classroom. The 2011 NSCAA Girls High School Scholar Athlete of the Year, she was the president of her freshman and sophomore class at Winfield High and has volunteered locally as a peer math tutor and youth soccer coach.

"Haleigh Hoff is a very skillful player," said Kernell Borneo, Hoff's club coach with Fury FC. "She has the technique, a great attitude, is willing to learn, follows instructions and she can score goals. She's very creative."

Wilson has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the University of Kentucky beginning this fall and recently graduated Winfield High early to begin attending spring semester collegiate classes.

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.

Hoff joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Girls Soccer Players of the Year Sami Molina (2010-11, Cabell Midland High School), Whitney Cavender, (2009-10, University), Sarah Cogswell (2008-09, Jefferson High School), Megan Johnson (2007-08, George Washington High School), and Kim Abcouwer (2006-07, Charleston Catholic) 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.

###