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**COPPELL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE TEXAS GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 13, 2010) — In its 25th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Chioma Ubogagu of Coppell High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Texas Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Ubogagu is the first Gatorade Texas Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Coppell 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 Ubogagu as Texas' 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, Ubogagu 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.), Kevin Garnett (1992-93, Maudlin HS, S.C.), 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-6 junior forward and midfielder led the Cowgirls (20-4-2) to the Class 5A Region I quarterfinals this past season, recording 21 goals and 13 assists. A member of the U.S. Soccer Federation Under-18 Women's National Team, Ubogagu is a two-time District 6-5A Midfielder of the Year and a three-time *Dallas Morning News* First Team All-Area honoree. The nation's No. 1 recruit in the Class of 2011 as rated by TopDrawerSoccer.com, Ubogagu has recorded 64 goals and 33 assists in her prep career.

Ubogagu has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a youth soccer instructor, at an elementary school book fair and as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with her church youth group.

"Chioma Ubogagu exudes confidence," said Greg Harris, a coach with the Arkansas U.S. Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program. "She has very good speed, good skill, good size. She's very strong on the ball. She goes to goal well. She's going to be a physical nightmare for people to try to handle. Someone like that who's that big with that speed and good ball control and that confidence, it makes it even more difficult to stop her. I really like her."

Ubogagu has verbally committed to play soccer on scholarship at Stanford University beginning in the fall of 2011.

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 ESPN RISE 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.

Ubogagu joins recent Gatorade Texas Girls Soccer Players of the Year Alina Garciamendez-Rowold (2008-09, Ursuline), Ashley Rape (2007-08, Greenhill School), and Melissa Henderson (2006-07, Berkner) 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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