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**ST. LUKE'S SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® CONNECTICUT BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 18, 2010) — In its 25th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Kofi Agyapong of St. Luke's School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Connecticut Boys Soccer Player of the Year.

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 Agyapong as Connecticut's best high school boys soccer player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Soccer Player of the Year award to be announced in May, Agyapong joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook HS, Mich.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Kevin Garnett (1992-93, Maudlin HS, S.C.), Tony Meola (1986-87, Kearney HS, N.J.) and Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.).

The 5-foot-8, 135-pound senior forward and midfielder recorded 32 goals and 10 assists this past season, leading the Crusaders (14-3-1) to the New England Prep School Athletic Council Class C semifinals. An ESPN RISE First Team All-American selection and a two-time First Team All-Western New England Prep School Scholastic Association honoree, Agyapong led St. Luke's to the Fairchester Athletic Association regular-season and tournament title for the first time in the program's history. He concluded his three-year high school career with 57 goals and 24 assists.

Agyapong has maintained a 3.51 GPA in the classroom. A native of Ghana who moved to the United States when he was 14 years old, Agyapong has volunteered as a local camp counselor and has raised funds to benefit cancer research.

"Kofi Agyapong is not the tallest or strongest player, but he's incredibly agile," said John Chivaroli, Agyapong's coach with the Beachside Soccer Club. "Over the first five yards, he's very quick. As a result, he's able to create separation. He pulls one-on-one moves very quickly and effortlessly and is able to wrong-foot defenders consistently."

Agyapong has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Wake Forest University this fall and graduated St. Luke's 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 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.

Agyapong joins recent Gatorade Connecticut Boys Soccer Players of the Year Colin Bradley (2008-09, Avon Old Farms School), Pat Boucher (2007-08, Cromwell), and Ryan Kinne (2006-07, Naugatuck) 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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