Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)

ZIONSVILLE COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE® INDIANA 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 A.J. Corrado of Zionsville Community High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Indiana Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Corrado is the second Gatorade Indiana Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Zionsville Community 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 Corrado as Indiana'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, Corrado 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-10 senior midfielder recorded 24 goals and 24 assists this past season, leading the Eagles (20-3-2) to a state championship. A First Team All-American selection by ESPN RISE and a National Soccer Coaches Association of America All-American honoree, Corrado was a three-year captain of the Zionsville varsity team and a two-time adidas ESP Camp participant.

Corrado has maintained a 3.61 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Zionsville High National Honor Society, he has volunteered as a local youth soccer instructor and has served in his school's student council.

"A.J. Corrado's definitely a very special player," said Nick Swaim, head coach of rival Noblesville High. "He pretty much picked Zionsville up and carried them on his back. His vision and calmness on the ball are his two biggest assets, without a doubt."

Corrado has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Southern Methodist University 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 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.

Corrado joins recent Gatorade Indiana Boys Soccer Players of the Year Harrison Petts (2008-09, Zionsville Community), Mitch Day (2007-08, Memorial), and Robby Lynch (2006-07, Carmel) 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.