Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)

TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE® KENTUCKY 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 Lepe Seetane of Trinity High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Kentucky Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Seetane is the fourth Gatorade Kentucky Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Trinity 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 Seetane as Kentucky'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, Seetane 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-1 senior midfielder recorded 15 goals and 19 assists this past season, leading the Shamrocks (19-3-1) to the state tournament round of 16. An ESPN RISE Second Team All-American selection and a 2009 Parade Magazine All-American, Seetane is a three-time Youth All-American honoree by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America for his club-level performance. He concluded his high school career with 36 goals and 28 assists.

Seetane has maintained a 3.88 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered as a local youth soccer instructor and has donated his time collecting soccer equipment and clothes for children in his native country of Lesotho, which borders South Africa.

"Nobody in the country can do the things he can do in terms of distributing the ball and how he reads the game," said Tim Lenahan, Seetane's future coach at Northwestern University. "His quickness and his soccer IQ—you could drop him in the middle of a pro game and he would not be out of place."

Seetane has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Northwestern 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.

Seetane joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Boys Soccer Players of the Year Kevin Bick (2008-09 & 2007-08, St. Xavier) and Josh Lipka (2006-07, Lexington 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.