

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)**

**FALMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MAINE BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 18, 2010) — In its 25<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Gabe Hoffman-Johnson of Falmouth High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Maine Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Hoffman-Johnson is the sixth Gatorade Maine Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Falmouth 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 Hoffman-Johnson as Maine'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, Hoffman-Johnson 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 state's returning Gatorade Boys Soccer Player of the Year, Hoffman-Johnson recorded 28 goals and 14 assists this past season, leading the Yachtsmen (16-0-2) to the Class B State Championship. An All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America in 2008 and 2009, the 6-foot senior forward has also been named to the All-State team in each of the last three seasons, and has been honored as the Class B Player of the Year two seasons in a row.

Hoffman-Johnson has maintained an A-minus average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a mentor to elementary school students and on behalf of a program for physically challenged youth soccer players.

"Hoffman-Johnson is very dangerous, especially when he's playing up top as a striker," said Mike Hagerty, head coach of rival Yarmouth High. "He's exceptionally quick, excellent with both feet and he's deadly either scoring himself or drawing defenders and setting up his teammates."

Hoffman-Johnson will attend Dartmouth College this fall, where he will play soccer.

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.

Hoffman-Johnson joins recent Gatorade Maine Boys Soccer Players of the Year Oliver Blum (2007-08, Greely) and Jordan Hale (2006-07, Falmouth) 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

###