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**THE ROXBURY LATIN SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MASSACHUSETTS 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 Leon Brown of The Roxbury Latin School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Brown is the first Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from The Roxbury Latin 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 Brown as Massachusetts' 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, Brown 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 forward recorded 19 goals and eight assists this past season, leading the Foxes (16-1-3) to the New England Prep School Athletic Council Class B semifinals. A *Boston Globe* All-Scholastic and a three-time First Team All-Independent School League selection, Brown led the ISL in scoring as a senior and concluded his high school career with 55 goals and 23 assists.

Brown has maintained a sound level of achievement in the classroom and scored an 1820 (out of 2400) on the SAT. He has volunteered locally as a youth soccer instructor and on behalf of both a food bank and a homeless shelter.

"Leon Brown's a special player," said Bob Pipe, head coach of rival Rivers School. "Brown's got the speed and the athleticism that put him in another category. His team came in second in the ISL and it was 100 percent on him. You could put Leon Brown on any team in the league and they win the league; he's that special striker that does it all."

Brown has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Notre Dame 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.

Brown joins recent Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Soccer Players of the Year Charlie Rugg (2008-09, The Rivers School), Jan Trnka-Amrhein (2007-08, Noble and Greenough School), and Ben Slingerland (2006-07, St. John's Prep School) 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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