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**MEHLVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MISSOURI 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 Adnan Gabeljic of Mehlville High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Missouri Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Gabeljic is the first Gatorade Missouri Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Mehlville 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 Gabeljic as Missouri'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, Gabeljic 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 6-foot-3, 185-pound senior forward recorded 23 goals and eight assists this past season, leading the Panthers (20-5) to the Class 3, District 2 championship game. An All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America and the Missouri Coaches Association's Class 3 Offensive Player of the Year, Gabeljic was a *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* First Team All-Metro honoree and the Suburban West Conference Player of the Year.

Gabeljic has maintained a 3.61 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered as a local youth soccer instructor and on behalf of the Special Olympics.

"Adnan Gabeljic is one of the most dynamic players we've played against in years," said Greg Vitello, head coach of rival DeSmet Jesuit High. "He is just awesome. He left some of our guys in the dust with his skill and athleticism. He is special."

Gabeljic has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at St. Louis University this fall and graduated Mehlville High 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.

Gabeljic joins recent Gatorade Missouri Boys Soccer Players of the Year Alex Sweetin (2008-09, Rockhurst), Will Bruin (2007-08, De Smet Jesuit), and Mike Roach (2006-07, Chaminade College Preparatory 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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