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**MADISON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEW JERSEY 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 Jon Aguirre of Madison High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade New Jersey Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Aguirre is the first Gatorade New Jersey Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Madison 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 Aguirre as New Jersey'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, Aguirre 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-7 senior midfielder recorded 11 goals and four assists this past season, leading the Dodgers (15-5-2) to the North II, Group II regional semifinals. A member of the U.S. Soccer Federation Under-18 Men's National Team, Aguirre led Madison High to the Morris County Tournament championship for the first time in school history in 2009.

Aguirre has maintained a 3.49 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered on behalf of the Make-A-Wish Foundation and has raised funds to benefit the Special Olympics and the Lance Armstrong Foundation.

"Jon Aguirre is what you would call the hub of the whole team," said John Murphy, Aguirre's club coach with Performance Development Academy. "He makes everyone around him better. Aguirre is a hard guy to find at any level—a midfield general who gets up and down both ways."

Aguirre has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Duke 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.

Aguirre joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Boys Soccer Players of the Year Rafael Diaz (2008-09, Morris Hills), Matt Kassel (2007-08, Bridgewater-Raritan), and Brayan Martinez (2006-07, West Orange) 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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