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**LAKE OSWEGO HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® OREGON 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 Thomas Iwasaki of Lake Oswego High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Oregon Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Iwasaki is the second Gatorade Oregon Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Lake Oswego 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 Iwasaki as Oregon'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, Iwasaki 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-9, 155-pound senior midfielder recorded 18 goals and 10 assists this past season, leading the Lakers (12-3) to the Class 6A state tournament. A Class 6A First Team All-State selection, Iwasaki was a Three Rivers League First Team All-Star. He scored a goal in 11 of Lake Oswego's 15 games in 2009.

Ranked No. 1 in his class and a National Merit Scholar Semifinalist, Iwasaki has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom and has represented Lake Oswego High at a state youth and government session in Salem. Also a local elementary school tutor, he has volunteered at both a food bank and homeless shelter in his area. Iwasaki has also donated his time to the Friday Night Lights program, benefitting African Sports Outreach, which provides soccer gear and equipment to children in remote African villages.

"Thomas Iwasaki is silky smooth," said Chuck Bechtol, head coach of rival McMinnville High. "His turns are so fluid, he's just a pleasure to watch. He reads the game well, is strong on the ball and isn't afraid to take people on. He's a game-changer."

Iwasaki has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Portland 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.

Iwasaki joins recent Gatorade Oregon Boys Soccer Players of the Year Jonathan Flores (2008-09, McMinnville), Chilo Rivera (2007-08, Glencoe), and Frankie Lopez (2006-07, McMinnville) 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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