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**MOUNTAIN BROOK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® ALABAMA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 6, 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 Nathan Diehl of Mountain Brook High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Alabama Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Diehl is the second Gatorade Alabama Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Mountain Brook 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 Diehl as Alabama'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, Diehl 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-11, 165-pound junior defender led the Spartans (20-3-4) to the Class 6A state tournament this season, recording five goals and two assists. A First Team All-State selection as a sophomore in 2009 and an Honorable Mention All-State honoree as a freshman in 2008, Diehl has been selected by the Alabama High School Athletic Directors and Coaches Association to compete in the North-South All-Star Game this July.

Diehl has maintained an A-minus average in the classroom. A member of his school's Spanish Club, he has volunteered locally as a youth soccer referee.

"Nathan Diehl is good in the air, a good defender," said Eric Dade, director of coaching for the Birmingham United Soccer Association club program. "He's a flat-out good soccer player. What separates him is his ability to defend well and win balls, and he has the ability to do good things with the ball afterwards."

Diehl has verbally committed to play soccer on scholarship at the University of North Carolina beginning in the fall of 2011.

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.

Diehl joins recent Gatorade Alabama Boys Soccer Players of the Year Chandler Hoffman (2008-09 & 2008-07, Oak Mountain) and Paul Willoughby (2006-07, Grissom) 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).

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