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**SOUTH ANCHORAGE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ALASKA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 6, 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 Hall of South Anchorage High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Alaska Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Hall is the first Gatorade Alaska Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from South Anchorage 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 Hall as Alaska'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, Hall 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/midfielder had recorded seven goals and five assists at the time of his selection, leading the Wolverines (9-0-2) to an unbeaten campaign entering a May 6 regular-season clash with Service. The National Soccer Coaches Association of America Alaska Player of the Year in 2008, Hall led South Anchorage to a state title in 2009. He's also a three-time All-Cook Inlet Conference selection.

Hall has maintained a 3.93 GPA in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade Award's broad criteria, which seek to honor not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of scholastic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field. An active member of his church community, he is also a talented musician and has volunteered locally on behalf of youth soccer programs.

"He's got a well-developed soccer brain and the technical ability to carry out anything he wants," said Laef Egan, head coach of rival Anchorage West High. "He's a pure soccer player."

Hall has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Colorado State University-Pueblo 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.

Hall joins recent Gatorade Alaska Boys Soccer Players of the Year Blaine Carver (2008-09, Soldotna), Colin Flynn (2007-08, Juneau-Douglas), and Spencer Augustin (2006-07, South) 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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