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**PINNACLE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ARIZONA 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 George Malki of Pinnacle High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Arizona Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Malki is the second Gatorade Arizona Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Pinnacle 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 Malki as Arizona'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, Malki 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, 155-pound senior midfielder and forward led the Pioneers (25-1) to the Class 5A-Division II state championship this past season, recording 22 goals and 26 assists. A 2009 National Soccer Coaches Association of America Youth All-American selection for the club season, Malki is a 2010 First Team All-State selection for Pinnacle. The nation's No. 32 recruit in the Class of 2010 as rated by TopDrawerSoccer.com, Malki spent his junior year of high school in residency with the U.S. Soccer Federation Under-17 Men's National Team in Bradenton, Fla.

Malki has maintained a 3.90 GPA in the classroom. A peer tutor, he has volunteered locally as part of a fundraising campaign to benefit brain tumor research and as a youth soccer coach.

"Malki can score himself and also create," said Jon Pearlman, the director of coaching for the Tucson Soccer Academy club program. "He can take free kicks, he can strike from distance, he can beat players with speed, he can pretty much do anything. He's just smooth. He looks like you would imagine a soccer player would look like."

Malki has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship this fall at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

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.

Malki joins recent Gatorade Arizona Boys Soccer Players of the Year Nick Ayers (2008-09, Brophy College Prep), Temi Molinar (2007-08, Brophy College Prep), and Kyle Ciliento (2006-07, Pinnacle) 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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