

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)

**KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® IOWA 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 Erik Boyer of Kennedy High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Iowa Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Boyer is the first Gatorade Iowa Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Kennedy 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 Boyer as Iowa'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, Boyer 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 6-foot-2, 180-pound senior forward had led the Cougars (12-1) to the No. 3 ranking in Class 3A at the time of his selection, recording nine goals and eight assists. A member of the 1992 U.S. Youth Soccer Region II Olympic Development Program team, Boyer was a 2009 Second Team All-State selection and is a two-time First Team All-Mississippi Valley Conference honoree.

Boyer has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach, as part of a fundraising campaign for the One Campaign against poverty and on behalf of relief efforts for Hurricane Katrina victims.

"Erik Boyer has worked extremely hard," said Shaun Howe, Boyer's club coach with Eastern Iowa United. "He's a big, strong kid and technically good for a big kid. He's the full package. He's like a target forward basically. He's pretty unselfish and does a lot of work."

Boyer has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Drake 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.

Boyer joins recent Gatorade Iowa Boys Soccer Players of the Year Husref Jupic (2008-09, Hoover), Hunter Kennedy (2007-08, Washington), and Charlie Schwartz (2006-07, Bettendorf) 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.

###