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**GULFPORT HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MISSISSIPPI 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 Jarred Arde of Gulfport High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Mississippi Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Arde is the first Gatorade Mississippi Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Gulfport 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 Arde as Mississippi'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, Arde 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, 168-pound senior forward led the Admirals (16-1-2) to the Class 6A state championship this past season, recording 24 goals and seven assists. The *Sun-Herald* Player of the Year and a two-time *Clarion Ledger* Top 11 honoree, Arde scored the game's only goal as Gulfport edged Northwest Rankin High, 1-0, in the Class 6A state championship game.

Arde has maintained an A-minus average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach and as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with his church youth group.

"Jarred Arde has great vision to go along with his finishing abilities," said Paul Martin, a coach with the Mississippi Olympic Development Program. "You think about him being an attacking midfielder, but he's just so clever in front of the goal. He has a knack to finish."

Arde has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Iowa's 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.

Arde joins recent Gatorade Mississippi Boys Soccer Players of the Year Dillon Walker (2008-09, Pearl), Chris Williams (2007-08, Pearl), and Barry Prather (2006-07, Clinton) 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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