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**EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® TENNESSEE 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 Chandler Gagnon of Evangelical Christian School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Tennessee Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Gagnon is the first Gatorade Tennessee Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Evangelical Christian 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 Gagnon as Tennessee'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, Gagnon 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, 175-pound junior midfielder had led the Eagles (10-0-2) to an unbeaten season at the time of his selection, recording 15 goals and 17 assists. An adidas ESP camp All-Star last summer and a member of the U.S. Youth Soccer 1993 Region III Olympic Development Program team, Gagnon is the nation's No. 20 recruit in the Class of 2011 as rated by TopDrawerSoccer.com.

Gagnon has maintained a 3.06 GPA in the classroom. A member of his local Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter, he has volunteered by assisting area children at the Colonial Visually Limited Center and as a youth soccer referee.

"You can put Chandler wherever," said Jon Baker, a coach with the Tennessee Olympic Development Program. "He's good in the air, a very confident player. As a center back, he can carry the ball forward. He's not just a guy who wins the ball and drives it forward; he's looking to carry it forward into play."

Gagnon will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Gagnon joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Boys Soccer Players of the Year Mark Sherrod (2008-09, Carter), Stephen Morrissey (2007-08, Battle Ground Academy), and Tom Webster (2006-07, Bearden) 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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