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**Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)**

**MARCUS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® TEXAS 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 Zach Barnes of Marcus High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Texas Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Barnes is the second Gatorade Texas Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Marcus 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 Barnes as Texas' 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, Barnes 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, 160-pound senior midfielder led the Marauders (17-3-4) to the Class 5A regional quarterfinals this past season, recording 15 goals and six assists. A 2009 ESPN RISE First Team All-American selection and a National Soccer Coaches Association of America High School and Youth All-American, Barnes is the nation's No. 7 recruit in the Class of 2010 as rated by TopDrawerSoccer.com. He spent his sophomore year of high school in residency with the U.S. Soccer Federation Under-17 Men's National Team in Bradenton, Fla., and concluded his varsity career with 38 goals and 20 assists.

Barnes has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a mentor at an elementary school in Flower Mound and as a youth soccer coach.

"He's an all-around player; he's good in the air and good on the ground," said Hassan Nazari, Barnes' club coach with the Dallas Texans. "Zach's strength is that he's always consistent, he's always doing things on both sides of the ball. Everything that he does, he does very well."

Barnes has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Southern Methodist 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.

Barnes joins recent Gatorade Texas Boys Soccer Players of the Year Dillon Powers (2008-09, Plano), Sam Garza (2007-08, Marcus), and Corben Bone (2006-07, Plano) 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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