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**BRIGHTON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® UTAH 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 Thomas Loomis of Brighton High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Utah Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Loomis is the first Gatorade Utah Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Brighton 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 Loomis as Utah'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, Loomis 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-7 senior forward had recorded 14 goals and six assists at the time of his selection, leading the Bengals (14-1) to a No. 10 ranking in the ESPN RISE Fab 50 entering the postseason, scheduled to begin May 11 against Syracuse. A Deseret News and Salt Lake Tribune First Team All-State selection in 2009, Loomis has led Brighton to back-to-back Class 5A state titles.

Loomis has maintained a 3.37 GPA in the classroom. A peer tutor at his school, he has volunteered locally doing yard work for elderly neighbors and on behalf of an activities program for children with Down syndrome.

"Loomis knows how to use his talent to better himself and those around him," said Erik Bayles, head coach at rival Pleasant Grove High. "It's easy to defend some great athletes when you take away the one thing that sets them apart, but if you take away his speed to goal, he uses it to open lanes for teammates. If you lay off of him, he'll finish from distance. If you take him off his game he doesn't get frustrated, he just keeps working."

Loomis has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship this fall at California State University at Fullerton.

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.

Loomis joins recent Gatorade Utah Boys Soccer Players of the Year James Rogers (2008-09, Highland), Jake Hustedt (2007-08, Jordan), and Jake Cook (2006-07, East) 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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