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**TIMBERLINE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® IDAHO BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 23, 2011) — In its 26th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Michael Soderlund of Timberline High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Idaho Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Soderlund is the second Gatorade Idaho Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Timberline 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 Soderlund as Idaho'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, Soderlund 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, 185-pound junior goalkeeper posted four shutouts and a 0.77 goals-against average this past season, leading the Wolves (10-6-3) to the Class 5A state tournament, where they fell in the first round. A member of the U.S. Youth Soccer 1994 Region IV Olympic Development Program team, Soderlund was a 2010 First Team All-Southern Idaho Conference selection. He concluded his prep soccer career with 15 shutouts.

Soderlund has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom and is on pace to graduate a year early—this spring—after accelerating his high school curriculum. He has volunteered locally as a youth soccer instructor and has donated his time to Rake Up Boise, performing landscaping work for area elderly and disabled families.

"His dedication to the game, his passion and his hard-working attitude make him special," said Jens Haustein, Soderlund's club coach with the Idaho Rush. "He has well above-average goalie skills. He has very good technique, catching and saving shots. A good modern goalie isn't just a guy in the box, he also has to have good foot skills to play like a sweeper. And Michael's capable of doing that."

Soderlund has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Indiana 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.

Soderlund joins recent Gatorade Idaho Boys Soccer Players of the Year two-time winner Justin Hill (2009-10 & 2008-09, Boise) and Nick Sykes (2007-08, Mountain View) 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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