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Contact: Lauren Rollins (312-729-3607)

**MOUNTAIN BROOK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ALABAMA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 10, 2011) — In its 26th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Nathan Diehl of Mountain Brook High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Alabama Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Diehl is the first Gatorade Alabama Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Mountain Brook 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 Diehl as Alabama'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, Diehl 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.), Tony Meola (1986-87, Kearney HS, N.J.) and Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.).

The 5-foot-11, 160-pound senior midfielder and defender recorded eight goals and four assists this past season, leading the Spartans (15-9-3) to the Class 6A state tournament. The 2009-10 Gatorade Alabama Boys Soccer Player of the Year, Diehl was also the 2010 *Birmingham News* Player of the Year and is a two-time First Team All-State selection.

Diehl has maintained an A-minus average in the classroom. A member of his school's Spanish Club, he has volunteered locally as a youth soccer referee and instructor.

"What makes Nathan Diehl special is the higher the level of competition, the more eager he is to achieve at that level," said Oliver Weiss, Diehl's club coach with Birmingham United Soccer Association. "He really gets going when he finds out there are other players on the field who are very, very good. He doesn't back down from a challenge."

Diehl has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of North Carolina 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.

Two-time winner Diehl joins recent Gatorade Alabama Boys Soccer Players of the Year two-time winner Chandler Hoffman (2007-08 & 2008-09, Oak Mountain) 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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