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**SOUTH ANCHORAGE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ALASKA 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 Kirby Hutto of South Anchorage High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Alaska Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Hutto is the second Gatorade Alaska Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from South Anchorage 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 Hutto as Alaska'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, Hutto 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 6-foot senior midfielder has led the Wolverines to a 13-3-1 record entering this week's regular-season contest against East High, scheduled for May 12. Hutto has scored 16 goals and passed for six assists through 17 games. He was an All-Cook Inlet Conference selection in 2010.

Hutto has maintained a 3.50 GPA in the classroom. An active member of his school's Multicultural Club, he has also participated in student government and school theatrical productions.

"He's got great feet and a knack for scoring and creating goals," said Laef Eggen, head coach of rival Anchorage West High. "He reads the field well, he's got great anticipation and good technical ability."

Hutto has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Colorado State University-Pueblo 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.

Hutto joins recent Gatorade Alaska Boys Soccer Players of the Year Jon Hall (2009-10, South Anchorage), Blaine Carver (2008-09, Soldotna), and Colin Flynn (2007-08, Juneau-Douglas) 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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