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**OCEAN SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MISSISSIPPI 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 Derrick "Ducky" Troutman of Ocean Springs High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Mississippi Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Troutman is the second Gatorade Mississippi Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Ocean Springs 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 Troutman as Mississippi'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, Troutman 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, 180-pound senior midfielder led the Greyhounds to a 19-4-3 record and the Class 6A state championship this past season. Troutman scored eight goals and passed for 13 assists. A two-time *Clarion Ledger* Top 11 selection, Troutman was the 2011 *Sun Herald* Player of the Year. He scored the only goal in a 1-0 win over Madison Central in the state title game.

Troutman has maintained a 3.98 weighted GPA in the classroom. A member of the Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society, he has volunteered locally at a homeless shelter and a food bank in addition to serving as a mentor to elementary school students.

"Ducky's a holding central midfield guy, a distributor, a passer," said Ryan Webb, Troutman's club coach with the Mississippi Fire Juniors. "He dictated the game for Ocean Springs. And when the game was on the line, he nailed it."

Troutman will attend Meridian Community College in the fall where he will play soccer and tennis.

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.

Troutman joins recent Gatorade Mississippi Boys Soccer Players of the Year Jarred Arde (2009-10, Gulfport), Dillon Walker (2008-09, Pearl), and Chris Williams (2007-08, Pearl) 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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