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**EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® TENNESSEE BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 10, 2011) — In its 26<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Chandler Gagnon of Evangelical Christian School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Tennessee Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Gagnon is the first Gatorade Tennessee Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Evangelical Christian 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 Gagnon as Tennessee'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, Gagnon 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-2, 180-pound senior midfielder has led the Eagles to a 13-0-3 record and a berth in the Division II, West Region tournament quarterfinals against Fayette Academy, scheduled for May 10. Through 16 games, Gagnon has scored 21 goals and passed for 11 assists. The 2009-10 Gatorade Tennessee Boys Soccer Player of the Year, Gagnon was a 2010 ESPN RISE First Team All-American and the 2010 Memphis Commercial Appeal Best of the Preps Boys Soccer Player of the Year after leading ECS to the state title.

Gagnon has maintained a 3.30 GPA in the classroom. A member of his local Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter, he has volunteered locally with sight-impaired children and he has completed a service-mission trip to Honduras.

"Chandler has great awareness on the field," said Alex Williams, Gagnon's club coach with the Tennessee Rush. "He plays center back for me, but he's so versatile, he can play center midfield or forward. He's a leader in everything that he does and he's a great player."

Gagnon has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at the University of Memphis 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 Gagnon joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Boys Soccer Players of the Year Mark Sherrod (2008-09, Carter), and Stephen Morrissey (2007-08, Battle Ground Academy) 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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