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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Washington Youth Soccer's Alum, Chris Henderson Inducted to WIAA Hall of Fame

FEDERAL WAY, WASHINGTON (Thursday, March 19) – On Wednesday, April 15, the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) and *The Seattle Times* will induct its 2009 class into the Hall of Fame. Included in this elite class of coaches, administrators, officials and professional athletes is Washington Youth Soccer alumni and local soccer phenom Chris Henderson.

Born into a strong athletic family, Chris made a name for himself during his young career. Upon entering Cascade High School in Everett he helped his team win four conference championships and placed third in state during his freshman year. In addition, Chris played in three consecutive state championship games, winning twice in 1987 and 1989. A two-time Parade High School All American, Chris was honored as the Gatorade National High School Player of the Year in 1989.

After high school, Chris's success continued at the collegiate, professional, and national levels. Chris played at UCLA and won an NCAA Division I National Championship in 1990, as well as being named a Collegiate All-American. At age 19 he was the youngest member of the United States to be selected to play for the US National Team at the World Cup in Italy. Chris would later play in 79 games for the US National Team ranking him 21st in all-time appearances for this country. A highlight of any athlete's career, Chris represented the United States at the Olympic Games in Barcelona in 1992 and was an alternate on the 1994 and 1998 World Cup squads.

Professionally, Chris played soccer in Germany and Norway, before returning to the United States in 1996 as one of the original founding players of the new Major League Soccer (MLS). He played 11 years in the MLS and was selected to three all-star teams. Since then Chris has continued his involvement in both the sport he loves and his humanitarian efforts. Having launched his own foundation in 2004 to provide grants to underprivileged children and to fight Leukemia, Chris is also the technical director for the new Seattle Sounders FC.

Washington Youth Soccer is proud to call Chris Henderson one of its own and congratulates him on his induction into the 2009 WIAA Hall of Fame!

About Washington Youth Soccer

Washington Youth Soccer is the largest youth soccer organization in Washington. Washington Youth Soccer is the state's affiliate for US Youth Soccer, which is the largest sports organization in the United States and the most populous member of the United States Soccer Federation, the

governing body for soccer in the United States. The Washington Youth Soccer is the sixth largest membership in the nation; our organization represents over 128,000 players (ages 4-19) and their families, 15,000 coaches on 12,000 teams and 6,500 referees in the state of Washington. Washington Youth Soccer's mission is to foster the physical, mental and emotional growth and development of the State of Washington's youth through the sport of soccer at all levels of age and competition.

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