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**HAINES HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ALASKA BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 18, 2010) — In its 25th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Kyle Fossman of Haines High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Alaska Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Fossman is the first Gatorade Alaska Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Haines 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 court, distinguishes Fossman as Alaska's best high school boys basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year award to be announced in March, Fossman joins an elite alumni association of past state boys basketball award winners, including Chris Paul (2002-03, West Forsyth HS, N.C.), Kevin Garnett (1992-93, Maudlin HS, S.C.), Chauncey Billups (1993-94 & 1994-95, George Washington HS, Colo.), Jason Kidd (1991-92, St. Joseph Notre Dame HS, Calif.), Paul Pierce (1994-95, Inglewood HS, Calif.) and Chris Bosh (2001-02, Lincoln HS, Texas).

At the time of his selection, the 6-foot senior guard had led the Glacier Bears (18-4) to the Class 3A state finals. Entering Wednesday's championship game against Nome-Beltz, Fossman boasted averages of 26.8 points, 6.5 assists, 5.4 rebounds and 2.9 steals per game. Fossman was a First Team All-State selection this season and was the Class 3A Player of the Year after leading Haines to the 2008 state title.

Fossman has maintained a 4.21 GPA in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade Award's broad criteria. He has volunteered locally on behalf of youth basketball programs and has helped serve meals to area veterans groups.

"He's very fast with the ball, he's strong and he can shoot from all over," said Frank Ostanik, head coach of Monroe Catholic High, which played against Haines this season. "He can really do whatever he wants on the court, but you can see that he really tries to involve all his teammates too."

Fossman has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Alaska-Anchorage 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.

Fossman joins recent Gatorade Alaska Boys Basketball Players of the Year Ryan Hanley (2008-09, Dimond), Kevin Winford (2007-08, Bartlett), and Jesse Bean (2006-07, Wasilla) among the state's list of former award winners.

To celebrate the award's 25th anniversary, Gatorade wants you to vote for the All-Time Greatest Players of the Year at gatorade.com/POY25. 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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