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PRICE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE® CALIFORNIA 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 Allen Crabbe of Price High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade California Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Crabbe is the first Gatorade California Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Price 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 Crabbe as California'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, Crabbe 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).

The 6-foot-6, 200-pound senior guard has led the Knights (32-3) to the California Interscholastic Federation Division IV final, scheduled for March 20. Entering the postseason's final four round, Crabbe boasted averages of 23 points, 11 rebounds and three assists in addition to hitting 91 percent of his free throws. A 2010 McDonald's High School All-American Game selection committee nominee, Crabbe was the ESPN RISE California Boys Athlete of the Week for Feb. 6 when he scored a season-high 38 points in a 90-86 win over Crenshaw High.

Crabbe has maintained a 3.39 GPA in the classroom. An active member of his church community, he has volunteered locally as a youth basketball coach.

"Allen Crabbe has been an absolute joy to coach," said Price High Head Coach Michael Lynch. "He is self-motivated to be the best that he can possible be. I never have to worry about him putting in the effort to make himself better on and off the court. He is the epitome of a zero-maintenance student athlete."

Crabbe has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of California at Berkeley 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.

Crabbe joins recent Gatorade California Boys Basketball Players of the Year Michael Snaer (2008-09, Rancho Verde) and Jrue Holiday (2007-08 & 2006-07, Campbell Hall School) 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.