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GATORADE® NATIONAL BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR:
BRANDON KNIGHT

*Former Miami Heat Center and Gatorade Boys Basketball Player of the Year
Alonzo Mourning Surprises Standout with Elite Honor*

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (March 23, 2010) - In its 25th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Brandon Knight of Pine Crest School (Fort Lauderdale, Fla.) as its 2009-10 Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Knight was surprised with the news during his second period class at Pine Crest School by former Miami Heat Center Alonzo Mourning, who earned Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year honors in 1987-88.

"When I received this award in 1988, it was a really significant moment for me, so it felt great to surprise Brandon with the news and invite him into one of the most prestigious legacy programs in high school sports," said Mourning, a Gold Medalist, seven-time NBA All-Star, and two-time NBA Defensive Player of the Year. "Gatorade has been on the sidelines fueling athletic performance for years, so to be recognized by a brand that understands the game and truly helps athletes perform is a huge honor for these kids."

Knight becomes the first-ever student athlete from the state of Florida to repeat as Gatorade National Player of the Year in any sport. He joins 2009 NBA MVP LeBron James (2002-03 & 2001-02, St. Vincent-St. Mary, Akron, Ohio) and 2007 NBA Draft Number One Overall Pick Greg Oden (2005-06 & 2004-05, Lawrence North, Indianapolis, Ind.) as the only student-athletes to win Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year honors in consecutive seasons. He is also Florida's first boys basketball player ever to repeat as Gatorade State Player of the Year.

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 Knight as the nation's best high school boys basketball player. A national advisory panel comprised of sportswriters and sport-specific experts from around the country helped select Knight from more than 545,000 high school boys basketball players nationwide. Knight is now once again a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade Male High School Athlete of the Year award, to be presented at a special afternoon ceremony prior to The ESPY Awards in July.

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Page 2/Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year

The 6-foot-3, 175-pound senior guard led the Panthers (25-5) to the Class 3A state title game this past season, averaging 31.9 points, 8.6 rebounds, 3.9 assists and 2.5 steals while shooting at 82.4 percent (220-for-267) from the free throw line. The 2008-09 Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year, Knight is a 2010 McDonald's All-American and 2010 Jordan Brand Classic All-American. He is also a member of the 2010 USA Basketball Junior Select National Team and was a 2010 Naismith Award finalist. The owner of eight Pine Crest School records, Knight finished his prep career ranked second on the state's all-time scoring list with 3,515 points and is the first-ever four-time Class 3A-2A-1A Player of the Year as named by the *Sun-Sentinel*. He led Pine Crest to four state title games, helping to capture back-to-back crowns in 2008 and 2009.

Knight has maintained a 4.30 weighted GPA in the classroom. An active member of his church community, he has volunteered locally as a youth basketball coach and peer tutor.

"Brandon is an exceptional young man—bright, articulate and one of the few teens who could attend university in the country whether he played basketball or not," said National Director of ESPN Recruiting for basketball Paul Biancardi. "On the court, he's an outstanding scoring point guard who thrives in the transition game. In the half-court setting, Knight is as dangerous as they come with the ball in his hands. He has a quick first step to the basket and deceptive speed. He's excellent at finishing with contact or seeing the assist. Knight has really improved his 3-point shooting over the course of his career, but what's truly impressive about him is his unselfishness on the basketball court in spite of his ability to score. He's a team leader in every sense of the word and an extremely focused player. One of the most important qualities for a point guard is a strong mental makeup and he has very few mental lapses during the game, which separates him from his peers."

Knight remains undecided upon a college destination, but is expected to announce his choice in April.

"Without question, Brandon is deserving of recognition as the nation's best high school boys basketball player based on his statistics on the court and the impact his accomplishments have had on Pine Crest's success," said Gatorade Senior Vice President of Sports Marketing Jennifer Storms. "But he is also a shining example to peers and aspiring young players of what a leader and a student-athlete should be. He represents everything we hope for in a Gatorade Player of the Year recipient."

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.

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Page 3/Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year

To celebrate the award's 25th anniversary, Gatorade wants you to vote for the All-Time Greatest Boys Basketball Player of the Year at www.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 information on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of former winners, and future announcement dates, visit <http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com>.

ALL-TIME GATORADE NATIONAL BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

YEAR	NAME	HIGH SCHOOL	STATUS
2009-10	Brandon Knight	Pine Crest School/Fort Lauderdale, FL	High School Senior
2008-09	Brandon Knight	Pine Crest School/Fort Lauderdale, FL	High School Senior
2007-08	Jrue Holiday	Campbell Hall/North Hollywood, CA	Philadelphia 76ers
2006-07	Kevin Love	Lake Oswego/Lake Oswego, OR	Minnesota Timberwolves
2005-06	Greg Oden	Lawrence North/Indianapolis, IN	Portland Trail Blazers
2004-05	Greg Oden	Lawrence North/Indianapolis, IN	Portland Trail Blazers
2003-04	Dwight Howard	SW Atlanta Christian Academy/Atlanta, GA	Orlando Magic
2002-03	LeBron James	St. Vincent-St. Mary/Akron, OH	Cleveland Cavaliers
2001-02	LeBron James	St. Vincent-St. Mary/Akron, OH	Cleveland Cavaliers
2000-01	Kelvin Torbert	Northwestern Edison/Flint, MI	Michigan State Univ. Grad.
1999-00	Jared Jeffries	North/Bloomington, IN	Houston Rockets
1998-99	LaVell Blanchard	Pioneer/Ann Arbor, MI	Univ. of Michigan Grad.
1997-98	Al Harrington	St. Patrick/Elizabeth, NJ	New York Knicks
1996-97	Baron Davis	Crossroads/Santa Monica, CA	Los Angeles Clippers
1995-96	Kobe Bryant	Lower Merion/Ardmore, PA	Los Angeles Lakers
1994-95	Stephon Marbury	Abraham Lincoln/Brooklyn, NY	Boston Celtics
1993-94	Felipe Lopez	Rice/New York, NY	Gaiteros del Zulia (CBA)
1992-93	Randy Livingston	Isidore Newman School/New Orleans, LA	Retired from NBA
1991-92	Corliss Williamson	Russellville/Russellville, AR	Retired from NBA
1990-91	Chris Webber	Detroit County Day/Birmingham, MI	Retired from NBA
189-90	Damon Bailey	Bedford North Lawrence/Bedford, IN	Retired from NBA
1988-89	Kenny Anderson	Archbishop Molloy/Jamaica, NY	Retired from NBA

1987-88	Alonzo Mourning	Indian River/Chesapeake, VA	Retired from NBA
1986-87	LaBradford Smith	Bay City/Bay City, TX	Retired from NBA
1985-86	J.R. Reid	Kempsville/Virginia Beach, VA	Retired from NBA

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