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**WALTON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® GEORGIA 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 Ryan Harrow of Walton High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Georgia Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Harrow is the first Gatorade Georgia Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Walton 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 Harrow as Georgia'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, Harrow 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-1, 160-pound senior guard led the Raiders (17-8) to the second round of the Class AAAAA regional tournament this past season, averaging 32.4 points, 6.3 assists, 4.7 rebounds and 3.5 steals per game. A 2010 McDonald's High School All-American Game selection committee nominee, Harrow finished his prep career with more than 2,100 points and set a school record with 284 all-time assists. Harrow is currently ranked No. 37 in the nation in the class of 2010 by ESPNU and 28th by Scout.com.

Harrow has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of Habitat for Humanity and as a youth basketball coach.

"I've coached some pretty high-level kids and Ryan Harrow's the most prolific scorer I've ever seen," said Walton High Head Coach Joe Goydish. "For a kid his size, it's pretty uncanny. But he's also a great passer which is really going to help him when he goes to the next level. He just does some amazing things with a basketball. Every time I watch him play, he does something I've never seen him do before."

Harrow has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at North Carolina State University 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.

Harrow joins recent Gatorade Georgia Boys Basketball Players of the Year Derrick Favors (2008-09 & 2007-08, South Atlanta), and Gani Lawal (2006-07, Norcross) 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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