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**AMES HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® IOWA 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 Harrison Barnes of Ames High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Iowa Boys Basketball 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 Barnes as Iowa'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, Barnes 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-8 senior small forward led the Little Cyclones (27-0) to their second consecutive Class 4A state title this past season, averaging 27 points, 10 rebounds, three steals, three assists and 1.2 blocks per game. The returning 2008-09 Gatorade Iowa Boys Basketball Player of the Year, Barnes is a 2010 McDonald's All-American and 2010 Jordan Brand Classic All-American. The national 2010 Morgan Wooten Player of the Year and a 2010 Naismith Award finalist, Barnes scored 19 points in the Class 4A state final win over Southeast Polk High, extending his team's winning streak to 53 straight games. The 2009 Sporting News High School Athlete of the Year, Barnes is rated the nation's top recruit in the Class of 2010 by ESPNU and Scout.com.

Barnes has maintained a 3.3 GPA in the classroom. He has been a member of the school concert band, marching band and chorus, in addition to serving on the student council. An active member of his church youth group, Barnes founded a weekly bible study group at Ames High. He has donated his time locally as a peer math tutor, a youth basketball instructor and by fundraising for the school's Students Helping Eliminate Poverty and Hunger club. Barnes is also a member of the student entrepreneurship club, DECA, and has participated in multiple community service initiatives on the organization's behalf.

"Barnes is absolutely incredible," said Dickson Jensen, head coach of the Ames-based All Iowa Attack Amateur Athletics Union team. "He may be the most gifted athlete I've seen on the court. His maturity level is unlike anyone else. I've known him since he was in the sixth grade and he's the same humble kid now that he was then."

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

Barnes joins recent Gatorade Iowa Boys Basketball Players of the Year Matt Gatens (2007-08, City) and Brent Barz (2006-07, Johnston) 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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