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**DETROIT COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MICHIGAN 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 Ray McCallum of Detroit Country Day School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Michigan 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 McCallum as Michigan'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, McCallum 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, 180-pound point guard had led the Yellowjackets to a 22-2 record at the time of his selection. Entering Wednesday's Class B regional semifinals, McCallum boasted averages of 22.7 points, 7.3 rebounds, 5.5 assists and 3.2 steals per game. The returning Gatorade Michigan Boys Basketball Player of the Year, McCallum is a 2010 McDonald's All-American selection and is ranked as the nation's No. 34 recruit by ESPNU in the Class of 2010.

McCallum has maintained a 3.26 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth basketball camp counselor and serving meals to the needy.

"The thing that makes Ray McCallum such a special player is his leadership on the court," said Detroit Country Day Head Coach Kurt Keener. "He is a true point guard who can pass and shoot as well as anyone I've seen. He's been a huge part of our success here."

McCallum remains undecided upon a college destination.

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.

McCallum joins recent Gatorade Michigan Boys Basketball Players of the Year Brad Redford (2007-08, Frankenmuth) and Corperryale 'Manny' Harris (2006-07, Redford) 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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