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Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)

**MINNESOTA TRANSITIONS CHARTER SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MINNESOTA 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 Kevin Noreen of Minnesota Transitions Charter School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Minnesota Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Noreen is the first Gatorade Minnesota Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Minnesota Transitions Charter 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 Noreen as Minnesota'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, Noreen 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-10 senior forward averaged 38.4 points, 16.4 rebounds, 5.9 assists, 3.9 steals and 3.1 blocks per game in leading the Wolves (26-3) to Tuesday's Class 5A postseason sectional semifinals, where they defeated Saint Agnes, 89-59, on the strength of 44 points, 21 rebounds, six assists, four steals and four blocks from Noreen. Minnesota Transitions will face Maranatha Christian Academy in the sectional finals scheduled for March 19. The returning Class A Player of the Year as named by the Minnesota Basketball News, he averaged 32.8 points, 14.3 rebounds, 4.5 assists, 4.3 steals and 1.6 blocks as a junior. This past winter, Noreen broke the state's career scoring record of 3,428 points, originally set by Ellsworth's Cody Schilling in 2008.

Noreen has maintained a 4.13 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered on behalf of his church and as part of his school's peer-mentoring program.

"On the court, there's no doubt he's the hardest working kid we've ever had," said Minnesota Transitions Athletic Director Justin Birchem. "Everything he has, he's definitely worked hard to get. He's taken us from a startup program eight years ago to, potentially, a third consecutive state tournament. Without him, there's no doubt we would not be where we are. In my time as athletic director and being around the sport, I've never met such a wonderful young man. His attitude off the court is probably even more impressive than what he's done on the court."

Noreen has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Boston College 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.

Noreen joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Boys Basketball Players of the Year Mike Bruesewitz (2008-09, Henry Sibley), Jordan Taylor (2007-08, Benilde-St. Margaret's School), and Cole Aldrich (2006-07, Jefferson) 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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