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**FARGO NORTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NORTH DAKOTA 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 Nik Savageau of Fargo North High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade North Dakota Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Savageau is the third Gatorade North Dakota Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Fargo North 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 Savageau as North Dakota'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, Savageau 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 5-foot-10, 185-pound senior guard led the Spartans (20-5) to the Class A semifinals this past season, averaging 21.4 points, 5.5 rebounds, 4.7 assists and 2.5 steals per game. A 2010 First Team All-Tournament selection and a two-time First Team All-State honoree, Savageau led the Eastern Dakota Conference in scoring and led his team in points, assists, steals and blocks. Savageau also scored 31 points in a season-ending loss to Bismarck High in the Class A semifinals.

Savageau has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth basketball coach, on behalf of the Special Olympics and has raised funds to benefit ALS research.

"Nik Savageau brings so much energy to the team whenever he steps onto the floor," said Fargo North Head Coach Dan Shultis. "He's a great scorer but he also knows how to get the ball into the hands of his teammates. He's always come up big for us."

Savageau has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at University of Sioux Falls 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.

Savageau joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Boys Basketball Players of the Year Joe Hanstad (2008-09, Dickinson), Austin Dufault (2007-08, Killdeer), and Tate Kick (2006-07, Dickinson) 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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