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**Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)**

**BREWSTER ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® NEW HAMPSHIRE BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 18, 2010) — In its 25<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Melvin Ejim of Brewster Academy as its 2009-10 Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Ejim is the second Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Brewster Academy.

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 Ejim as New Hampshire'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, Ejim 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-6 senior forward led the Bobcats (34-4) to the National Prep School Championship this past season, averaging 13 points, 7.5 rebounds, three steals and 2.5 assists per game. An All-NEPSAC Class A Honorable Mention in 2010 by the New England Preparatory School Athletic Council, Ejim recorded 12 points and nine rebounds in Brewster Academy's 79-76 win over Northfield Mount Hermon High in the championship game. He also helped Brewster Academy win the NEPSAC Class A tournament, scoring a season-high 24 points in a quarterfinal win over Bridgeton Academy.

Ejim has maintained a 3.83 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered as a school tour guide for prospective students and their families and as a mentor to local elementary school students.

"Melvin Ejim is probably the most college-ready athlete we have in our program," said Brewster Academy Head Coach Jason Smith. "Physically and mentally, he really stands out. The way he defends and plays so hard all the time, he is truly one of the most impressive players I've seen."

Ejim has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Iowa 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.

Ejim joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Basketball Players of the Year Alex Oriakhi (2008-09, Tilton School), Emmanuel Negedu (2007-08, Brewster Academy), and Josh Owens (2006-07, Phillips Exeter Academy) among the state's list of former award winners.

To celebrate the award's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Gatorade wants you to vote for the All-Time Greatest Players of the Year at [gatorade.com/POY25](http://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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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