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Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)

**HALF HOLLOW HILLS HIGH SCHOOL WEST STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEW YORK 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 Tobias Harris of Half Hollow Hills High School West as its 2009-10 Gatorade New York Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Harris is the first Gatorade New York Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Half Hollow Hills High School West.

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 Harris as New York'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, Harris 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-9 senior forward has led the Colts (23-1) to the Class AA state semifinals, scheduled for March 20 against Rochester East High. Entering the postseason's final four, Harris boasted averages of 25.0 points, 14.4 rebounds, 3.7 assists and 3.2 blocks per game. A finalist for the Naismith Boys High School Player of the Year Award, Harris has been selected to play in both the Jordan Brand Classic and the McDonald's High School All-American games. He is ranked as the No. 5 senior in the country by ESPN RISE and is a member of the 2010 USA Basketball Junior National Select Team.

Harris has maintained a B average in the classroom. An active member of his church community, he has volunteered locally on behalf of local clothing drives.

"Tobias Harris has a lot of tools in his toolbox," said Steve Rebholz, head coach of rival Copiague High. "He can handle the ball with skill. He sees the floor very well and he's a proficient passer. He has a variety of low post moves and he's a constant threat from the outside as well."

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

Harris joins recent Gatorade New York Boys Basketball Players of the Year Brandon Triche (2008-09, Jamesville-DeWitt), Sylven Landesberg (2007-08, Holy Cross), and Jonny Flynn (2006-07, Niagara Falls) 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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