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

**WESTVIEW HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® OREGON 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 Garrett Jackson of Westview High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Oregon Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Jackson is the first Gatorade Oregon Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Westview 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 Jackson as Oregon'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, Jackson 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, 195-pound senior small forward led the Wildcats (25-4) to the Class 6A state tournament title game this past season, averaging 19.3 points, 8.7 rebounds, 2.4 assists, 1.8 steals and 1.0 blocks per game. The two-time Metro League Player of the Year and a McDonald's High School All-American Game selection committee nominee, Jackson amassed 12 points and 10 rebounds in the Class 6A state championship game, but Westview fell to Jesuit, 66-44. Also a returning Class 6A First Team All-State selection, he averaged 21 points and 11 rebounds as a junior.

Jackson has maintained a 3.00 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics, as a youth basketball instructor and baseball umpire, and as part of a literacy-outreach program at the local library.

"He's been incredible," said Westview Head Coach Pat Coons. "He's been a captain and a leader for us. Most importantly, from my view, he's been the classic role model of what kids need to achieve in terms of work ethic. He comes in every morning at 6 a.m. whether he had a bad game or a great game the night before. After practice in the afternoon, he's the last guy on the floor. He's so driven to be best. He's going to be a very good inside-outside player at USC."

Jackson has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Southern California 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.

Jackson joins recent Gatorade Oregon Boys Basketball Players of the Year E. J. Singler (2008-09, South Medford), Brad Tinsley (2007-08, Oregon City), and Kevin Love (2006-07, Lake Oswego) 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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