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**CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® SOUTH DAKOTA 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 Jared Hannigan of Central High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade South Dakota Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Hannigan is the second Gatorade South Dakota Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Central 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 Hannigan as South 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, Hannigan 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-2 senior guard has led the Golden Eagles (18-5) to the Class AA state tournament, scheduled for March 18. Entering the postseason, Hannigan boasted averages of 21.6 points, 7.7 rebounds and 2.8 steals per game. He's a three-time All-Eastern South Dakota Conference selection.

Hannigan has maintained a 3.46 GPA in the classroom. Also an All-State football player, he has volunteered locally on behalf of youth sports programs and his school's freshman mentoring program.

"Hannigan has range from 26 feet and he's one of those kids who can always get his shot off, even when you think he's covered," said Brent Deckert, head coach of rival Brandon Valley High. "The only way to stop him is to double him early and not let him get the ball."

Hannigan has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at South Dakota's Northern State University 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.

Hannigan joins recent Gatorade South Dakota Boys Basketball Players of the Year Tony Fiegen (2008-09, Madison), Louie Krogman (2007-08, White River), and Dale Moss (2006-07, Brandon Valley) 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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