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**YATES HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® TEXAS 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 Joseph Young of Yates High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Texas Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Young is the first Gatorade Texas Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Yates 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 Young as Texas' 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, Young 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 led the Lions (34-0) to a No. 2 national ranking and their second straight Class 4A state championship this past season, averaging 27.5 points, 4.4 steals, 4.1 rebounds and 3.8 assists per game. The MVP of the 2009 Class 4A state championship game, Young led Yates to 58 straight wins during the last two years, earning MVP honors at this winter's Iolani Prep Classic in Hawaii and T-Mobile Invitational in Alabama.

Young has maintained a B average in the classroom. An avid photographer, he has volunteered on behalf of Houston's "Reach Out to Dropouts" project and as a student mentor with Project GRAD's "Walk for Success."

"Joe Young has unlimited range. It's no accident—he's worked for it," said Chris Gaston, head coach of the Loyalty All-Stars Amateur Athletics Union club team. "He used to be known as just a shooter. He came back as a junior more athletic and stronger. Now he's dunking on people, playing the point a little, making decisions. The sky's the limit for that kid."

Young has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Providence College 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.

Young joins recent Gatorade Texas Boys Basketball Players of the Year Tommy Mason-Griffin (2008-09, Madison), Willie Warren (2007-08, North Crowley), and Gary Johnson (2006-07, Aldine) 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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