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**BURLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® VERMONT 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 Joe O'Shea of Burlington High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Vermont Boys Basketball Player of the Year. O'Shea is the second Gatorade Vermont Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Burlington 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 O'Shea as Vermont'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, O'Shea 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-4 senior guard led the Seahorses (21-2) to the Division I state championship game this past season, averaging 24 points, seven rebounds, four assists and three steals per game. The Vermont Basketball Coaches Association Player of the Year, O'Shea led Burlington to an 89-5 record in four varsity seasons.

O'Shea has maintained a 3.89 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a mentor for elementary school students.

"Joe O'Shea is one of the best high school players I think the state has ever seen," said Paul Pecor, head coach of rival Rice Memorial High. "He sees the floor as well as anyone I've ever coached against, and regardless of what he did offensively, I think he was the best defender in the state too."

O'Shea has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the College of the Holy Cross 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.

O'Shea joins recent Gatorade Vermont Boys Basketball Players of the Year Clancy Rugg (2008-09, Burlington), Matt Joslin (2007-08, North Country Union), and Pat Bergmann (2006-07, Rice Memorial) 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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