

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

**PORT WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® WISCONSIN 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 Josh Gasser of Port Washington High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Wisconsin Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Gasser is the first Gatorade Wisconsin Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Port Washington 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 Gasser as Wisconsin'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, Gasser 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, 190-pound senior point guard led the Pirates (19-5) to the Division 2 state tournament regional finals this past season, averaging 23.9 points, 9.6 rebounds, 4.6 assists and 2.7 steals per game. A returning Division 2 First Team All-State selection as named by the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association, Gasser shot 50.3 percent from the field and 84.5 percent from the free-throw line this winter. Also a 2010 McDonald's High School All-American Game selection committee nominee, he averaged 22 points, 11 rebounds and three assists as a junior.

Gasser has maintained a 3.58 GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating his time on behalf of the Special Olympics and as a youth basketball instructor, he has volunteered as part of an elementary school literacy-outreach program, a grounds-keeping effort at a local nature preserve and a holiday gift-giving campaign for underprivileged children,

"He's a real tough guard," said Tyler Selk, head coach of the Wisconsin Swing, Gasser's Amateur Athletic Union club team. "He's tough to match up with. As a coach who prepares high school kids, I wouldn't want to prepare them to go against Gasser. He's a 6-foot-4 guard that can dominate in the post and on the perimeter. He's a versatile kid. Beyond that, he's an unbelievable kid. He's worked to get where he is, and he's earned it."

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

Gasser joins recent Gatorade Wisconsin Boys Basketball Players of the Year Ben Averkamp (2008-09, Germantown), Kwamain Mitchell (2007-08, Dominican), and Tim Jarmusz (2006-07, Oshkosh West) 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).

###