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**LOGAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® WEST VIRGINIA 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 Noah Cottrill of Logan High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade West Virginia Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Cottrill is the first Gatorade West Virginia Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Logan 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 Cottrill as West Virginia'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, Cottrill 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).

At the time of his selection, the 6-foot-3 senior guard had led the Wildcats (22-3) to the Class AAA state quarterfinals. Entering Wednesday's playoff game with Hedgesville, Cottrill boasted averages of 29.2 points, 9.6 assists, 5.8 rebounds and 3.3 steals per game. He has earned the 2010 Evans Award, distinguishing him as the state's top basketball player as chosen by the West Virginia Sports Writer's Association.

Cottrill has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of an elementary school reading program and a youth basketball league.

"He sees the floor, he shoots the ball very well, he's a great ball-handler and he makes his teammates better," said Mike Jebbia, head coach of rival Wheeling Park High. "Even if he isn't shooting well, he's still helping his team."

Cottrill has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at West Virginia 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.

Cottrill joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Boys Basketball Players of the Year Aaron Dobson (2008-09, South Charleston), Bryant Irwin (2007-08, Bridgeport Senior), and Patrick Patterson (2006-07, Huntington) 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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