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**LARAMIE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® WYOMING 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 Dan Estes of Laramie High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Wyoming Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Estes is the first Gatorade Wyoming Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Laramie 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 Estes as Wyoming'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, Estes 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 5-foot-11, 175-pound senior guard led the Plainsmen (14-13) to the Class 4A state tournament this past season, averaging 21.1 points, 4.1 assists, 2.7 rebounds and two steals per game. The 2010 Eastern Conference Player of the Year, Estes led the state in scoring and helped Laramie clinch a state tournament berth with a 36-point performance, including five three-pointers, in a 77-64 win over Cheyenne Central High earlier this month.

Estes has maintained a 3.37 GPA in the classroom. An active member of his church community, he has volunteered locally as a youth basketball coach.

"Estes is a wonderful player and there's a reason he was named Player of the Year of our conference," said Mike Ibach, head coach of rival Sheridan High. "He meant everything to that team and really helped carry them into the state tournament. He's a wonderful kid and a real talent."

Estes remains undecided upon a college destination.

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.

Estes joins recent Gatorade Wyoming Boys Basketball Players of the Year Michael Dietz (2008-09, Natrona County), Justin Nelson (2007-08, Campbell County), and Kyle Bullinger (2006-07, Mountain View) 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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