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**DIMOND HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ALASKA GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 11, 2010) — In its 25th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Keiahnna Engel of Dimond High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Alaska Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Engel is the first Gatorade Alaska Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Dimond 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 Engel as Alaska's best high school girls basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Basketball Player of the Year award announced in March, Engel joins an elite alumni association of past state girls basketball award-winners, including Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Diana Taurasi (1998-99 & 1999-00, Don Antonio Lugo HS, Calif.), Maya Moore (2005-06 Collins Hill HS, Ga.), Rashanda McCants (2004-05, Asheville HS, N.C.), Shyra Ely (1999-00, Ben Davis HS, Ind.) and Lisa Leslie (1988-89, Morningside HS, Calif.)

The 5-foot-9 junior guard has led the Lynx (22-2) to the Class 4A state tournament, scheduled to begin March 15. The Cook Inlet Conference Player of the Year each of the last two seasons, Engel is averaging 21.1 points, 8.6 rebounds, 4.1 assists and 4.0 steals per game entering the postseason.

Engel has maintained a 3.07 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of youth basketball camps and clinics.

"She's just at a higher level than anyone else in Alaska right now," said Ryan Hales, head coach of rival South Anchorage High. "She's got a great shot and she's a good defender, and she's getting better every day."

Engel will begin her senior year of high school 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.

Engel joins recent Gatorade Alaska Girls Basketball Players of the Year Jenna Johnson (2008-09, Wasilla), Sylvia Bullock (2007-08, South Anchorage), and Talisa Rhea (2006-07, Juneau-Douglas) 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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