

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)

**RAMSAY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ALABAMA 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 Kaneisha Horn of Ramsay High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Alabama Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Horn is the first Gatorade Alabama Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Ramsay 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 Horn as Alabama'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, Horn 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 6-foot-1 senior guard and forward led the Rams (22-7) to the Class 4A regional final this past season, averaging 17 points, 12 rebounds and four assists per game. A two-time First Team All-State selection, Horn has been selected to play in both the McDonald's High School All-American Game and the Women's Basketball Coaches Association All-America Game this spring. She is also a finalist for the prestigious Naismith Award, awarded annually to the Atlanta Tipoff Club's choice as the nation's best basketball player.

Horn has maintained a 3.40 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered on behalf of the Family Career and Community Leaders of America and as an intern at the Birmingham City Council office.

"Horn has an uncanny ability to transform that huge body of hers into that of a guard," said Ulysses Hayes, head coach of rival Erwin High. "She weaves through defenders like she's 5-foot-3 but she's really 6-foot-1. She's the nicest girl you'd ever meet off the court but on the court she's all business. She's a woman against girls out there."

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

Horn joins recent Gatorade Alabama Girls Basketball Players of the Year Adrienne Webb (2008-09, Sparkman), Courtney Jones (2007-08, Midfield), and Alli Smalley (2006-07, Arab) 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.

###