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**TOLLESON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ARIZONA 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 Rebecca Woodberry of Tolleson High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Arizona Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Woodberry is the first Gatorade Arizona Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Tolleson 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 Woodberry as Arizona'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, Woodberry 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-10 senior forward led the Wolverines (28-5) to their second straight Class 5A Division II state championship this past season, averaging 25.3 points, 9.5 rebounds and 3.3 steals per game. Woodberry scored 19 points in the 52-43 title game win over Pinnacle High and was named the Desert West Region Player of the Year for the second consecutive season.

Woodberry has maintained a 3.92 GPA in the classroom. President of the school's Student Athlete Leadership Club, she has volunteered locally serving food to needy families and tutoring schoolmates in math.

"Woodberry can do almost anything," said Miner Webster, head coach of rival Highland High. "She can take it to the basket, shoot threes, post you up. She's big, tough, versatile—I'm not sure how you stop her unless you put three people on her."

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

Woodberry joins recent Gatorade Arizona Girls Basketball Players of the Year Davellyn Whyte (2008-09, St. Mary's Catholic), Amy Patton (2007-08, McClintock), and Kayla Pedersen (2006-07, Red Mountain) 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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