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**POST FALLS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® IDAHO GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 11, 2010) — In its 25<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Katelyn Loper of Post Falls High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Idaho Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Loper is the third Gatorade Idaho Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Post Falls 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 Loper as Idaho'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, Loper 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-11 senior guard led the Trojans to a 14-10 record this past season, averaging 22 points, 5.6 rebounds and four assists per game. The 2010 Inland Empire League Player of the Year, Loper finished her career as Post Falls's all-time leading scorer with 1,337 points, breaking the former record of 1,334 set by 2002-03 Gatorade Idaho Girls Basketball Player of the Year Aubree Johnson. Loper also scored a career-high 34 points in a 56-55 win over Coeur d'Alene High, handing the eventual Class 5A state champions their only home loss of the season.

Loper has maintained a 3.21 GPA in the classroom. An active member of her church community, she has volunteered locally as a youth basketball coach.

"Loper is such an enormous offensive threat," said Spokane Stars AAU Club Head Coach Ron Adams. "I really think she might be the best outside range shooter in the country. She just doesn't miss."

Loper has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Hofstra 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.

Loper joins recent Gatorade Idaho Girls Basketball Player of the Year Katie Baker (2008-09, 2007-08 & 2006-07, Lake City) among the state's list of former award winners.

To celebrate the award's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Gatorade wants you to vote for the All-Time Greatest Players of the Year at [gatorade.com/POY25](http://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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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