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**LEXINGTON CHRISTIAN ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® KENTUCKY 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 Sarah Beth Barnette of Lexington Christian Academy as its 2009-10 Gatorade Kentucky Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Barnette is the first Gatorade Kentucky Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lexington Christian Academy.

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 Barnette as Kentucky'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, Barnette 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 forward led the Eagles (22-7) to the 11th Region semifinals this past season, averaging 23.6 points, 8.7 rebounds, 2.4 steals, 2.2 assists and 1.9 blocks per game. A 2010 McDonald's All-American Game selection committee nominee, Barnette was a 2009 All-State pick and a four-time All-11th Region honoree. She concluded her high school career with 1,928 points and 1,076 rebounds.

Barnette has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of Ronald McDonald House Charities and as part of multiple community-service initiatives in association with her church youth group.

"Sarah Beth Barnette is a complete player," said Lex Lindsey, head coach of rival Franklin-Simpson High. "She's long, she handles the ball, she shoots the ball well. She can play inside and out. She was knocking down 3-pointers and handling our press."

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

Barnette joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Girls Basketball Players of the Year A'dia Mathies (2008-09, Iroquois), Tia Gibbs (2007-08, Butler Traditional), and Rebecca Gray (2006-07, Scott County) 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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