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**ALLIANCE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® NEBRASKA 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 Jordan Hooper of Alliance High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Nebraska Girls Basketball Player of the Year.

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 Hooper as Nebraska'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, Hooper 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 state's 2007-08 Gatorade Girls Basketball Player of the Year, Hooper led the Bulldogs (20-5) to the Class B state tournament semifinals this past season, averaging 26.1 points, 15.2 rebounds, 5.0 blocked shots, 3.6 steals and 2.5 assists per game. A two-time returning *Omaha World-Herald* First Team All-Nebraska and *Lincoln Journal Star* First Team Super-State selection, the 6-foot-2 senior forward scored a Class B single-game tournament record 47 points in a 70-59 victory against Omaha Skutt in the third-place consolation game. She concluded her career with 2,078 points and 1,337 rebounds, ranking second and fifth, respectively, all-time in the state.

Also a standout volleyball player, Hooper has maintained a 4.76 weighted GPA in the classroom and ranks No. 10 in her graduating class. A member of the National Honor Society, she has volunteered locally on behalf of a canned food drive, breast cancer awareness outreach, an elementary after-school program and the Special Olympics. Hooper has also donated her time as a peer tutor and youth basketball instructor.

"Jordan Hooper is a team player first," said Alliance Head Coach Nate Lanik. "That wouldn't necessarily hold true for all athletes. A lot of the time, players are in it for themselves when it comes to records—not her. She's had an amazing career."

Hooper 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.

Hooper joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Girls Basketball Players of the Year K.K. Houser (2008-09, Lincoln Southeast) and Dominique Kelley (2006-07, Lincoln Northeast) 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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