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**SOUTH KINGSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® RHODE ISLAND 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 Allie Jones of South Kingstown High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Jones is the first Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from South Kingstown 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 Jones as Rhode Island'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, Jones 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.)

At the time of her selection, the 6-foot-2 senior center had led the Rebels (19-2) to an unbeaten record in Division I and boasted averages of 18.2 points, 10.9 rebounds, 2.8 blocks, 2.7 assists and 2.0 steals per game entering Wednesday's Division I state semifinals. A 2010 McDonald's All-American Game selection committee nominee and a 2009 First Team All-State honoree, Jones was shooting 55 percent from the field entering the state final four and had recorded 14 double-doubles.

Jones has maintained a 3.67 GPA in the classroom. A member of the South Kingstown High School student council, she has volunteered on behalf of a local food bank in association with her church youth group.

"Allie Jones has been head and shoulders above everybody else," said South Kingstown Coach Joel Tuoni. "She's taken games over. In big spots, she's the one we look to. With the game on the line, she's being very assertive. She's risen to every challenge."

Jones has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at St. Joseph's University in Pennsylvania 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.

Jones joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Basketball Players of the Year Torey Jones (2008-09, La Salle), Brittany Wilson (2007-08, St. Mary Academy-Bay View), and Meredith Ward (2006-07, Westerly) 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.