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**ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® SOUTH DAKOTA 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 Shaunteva Ashley of Roosevelt High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade South Dakota Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Ashley is the fifth Gatorade South Dakota Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Roosevelt 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 Ashley as South Dakota'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, Ashley 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 5-foot-8 senior guard had led the Rough Riders (18-3) to the Class AA state tournament quarterfinals, scheduled for March 11. Entering the postseason's round of eight, Ashley owned averages of 19.1 points, 4.4 rebounds, 2.8 steals and 2.7 assists per game. A returning First Team All-State selection as named by the Sioux Falls Argus Leader, Ashley eclipsed 1,000 career points this past winter.

Also a standout track and field athlete, Ashley has maintained a 3.51 weighted GPA in the classroom. A member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, she has volunteered locally as a mentor to kindergarten students and a youth basketball instructor in addition to donating her time as part of multiple fundraising efforts to benefit underprivileged families.

"Shaunteva Ashley is the finest combination of athlete and person I have ever coached," said Roosevelt High Head Coach Chris Clark. "She is not just another player; she is a leader in every sense of the word. Her drive to be the best she can be gives her an edge in competition, but she is not interested in standing out as an individual because she'd rather win a state championship."

Ashley remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Ashley joins recent Gatorade South Dakota Girls Basketball Players of the Year Sam Ostarello (2008-09, Stanley County), Alexis Yackley (2007-08, Sully Buttes), and Jill Young (2006-07, Mitchell Christian) 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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