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Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)

CY-FAIR HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE® TEXAS 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 **Chiney Ogwumike of Cy-Fair High School** as its **2009-10 Gatorade Texas Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Ogwumike is the second Gatorade Texas Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Cy-Fair 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 Ogwumike as Texas' best high school girls basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Basketball Player of the Year award announced in March, Ogwumike 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-3 senior forward led the Bobcats (36-1) to a top-15 national ranking and the Class 5A state tournament title this past season, averaging 22.9 points, 13.9 rebounds, 3.5 steals and 2.1 blocks per game. The No. 1 national recruit in the Class of 2010 as ranked by ESPNU and Blue Star Basketball, Ogwumike amassed 31 points and 18 rebounds in the 65-41 Class 5A state championship game victory over Fort Bend Hightower. Selected to play in both the McDonald's High School All-American Game and the Women's Basketball Coaches Association All-America Game this spring, she is also a Naismith Girls High School Basketball Player of the Year finalist. Ogwumike averaged 21.4 points and 12.6 rebounds as a junior. A member of the 2008 USA Basketball Women's U18 National Team Trials Roster, Ogwumike started for the Bobcats' 2007-08 Class 5A state championship as a sophomore.

A standout volleyball player, Ogwumike has maintained an A average in the classroom, ranks No. 3 in her class and serves as student body president. A member of the National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Superintendent Student Leadership Committee, she co-founded the "Step Up 2 A Reason" fundraising event to benefit local underprivileged families. Also the vice president of her school's civil rights club, she has volunteered more than 200 community-service hours on behalf of her church.

"Athletically, she has the ability as a player to elevate to a level that most people just don't have," said Cy-Fair Head Coach Ann Roubique. "She can turn it on in any way, shape or form she has to in order to win. When she elevates her game, her teammates get better as she gets better. When she stepped on the basketball court on campus, there was no question she was something special. To get to the level that she's gone to, I'm not even sure if you dream about that. Every year, she improved. She's one of the best players in the country, and she's earned it. She works and demands it of herself. What she brings to the table with her leadership, persistence and poise has given us even more opportunity."

Ogwumike has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Stanford 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.

Ogwumike joins recent Gatorade Texas Girls Basketball Players of the Year Brittney Griner (2008-09, Nimitz) and sister Nneka Ogwumike (2007-08 & 2006-07, Cy-Fair) 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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