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**SPRINGVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® UTAH 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 Lexi Eaton of Springville High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Utah Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Eaton is the first Gatorade Utah Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Springville 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 Eaton as Utah'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, Eaton 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 5-foot-11 junior guard led the Red Devils (23-0) to a second consecutive Class 4A state tournament title this past season, averaging 26.1 points, 6.3 rebounds, 2.5 steals, 2.3 assists and 1.0 blocks per game. A returning Class 4A First Team All-State selection as named by the *Deseret News* and *Salt Lake Tribune*, Eaton clicked for 25 points, 10 rebounds, three steals and two assists in the 42-36 state championship game victory against Timpanogos, capturing tournament Most Valuable Player honors. She shot 48.2 percent from the field and 76.2 percent from the free-throw line this past winter.

Also an accomplished pianist, organist and violinist, Eaton has maintained a 3.97 GPA in the classroom. A Young Womanhood Recognition award recipient, she has volunteered locally as a youth basketball instructor in addition to donating her time at a nursing home.

"She's definitely an incredible player," said Aubrey Johnson, head coach of rival Spanish Fork High. "She's extremely athletic—one of the quickest players I've even seen. Eaton is one of those players who can do it all. She has so many weapons. She can drive, shoot and rebound like crazy. She sees her whole team on the floor. I think she's the overall package."

Eaton has verbally committed to play basketball on scholarship at Brigham Young University beginning in the fall of 2011.

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.

Eaton joins recent Gatorade Utah Girls Basketball Players of the Year Haley Holmstead (2008-09, American Fork), Dani Peterson (2007-08, Skyline), and Tasha Dickey (2006-07, Brighton) 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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