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**CHAMPLAIN VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® VERMONT 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 Allison Gannon of Champlain Valley Union High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Vermont Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Gannon is the first Gatorade Vermont Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Champlain Valley Union 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 Gannon as Vermont'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, Gannon 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-9 senior forward led the Redhawks (17-5) to the Division I quarterfinals this past season, averaging 14.7 points, 8.2 rebounds, 2.6 steals and 1.0 block per game. Gannon was a member of the 2009 Vermont Basketball Coaches Association Dream Dozen team and a Third Team All-State selection in 2009.

Gannon has maintained a 3.79 GPA in the classroom. A member of the student council, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the Shelburne Art Center and as a youth basketball camp counselor.

"She is such a complete player," said Glenn Johnson, head coach of rival Bellows Free Academy. "She can shoot behind the arc, she can post up ... she's a strong kid who can move bodies around too. The only bad thing I can say about Gannon is that we can't beat her."

Gannon will attend Ohio's Oberlin College this fall, where she will play basketball.

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.

Gannon joins recent Gatorade Vermont Girls Basketball Players of the Year Tiffany Johnson (2008-09, Bellows Free Academy), Alyssa Herrington (2007-08, Mt. Anthony Union), and Kelli Hier (2006-07, Rice Memorial) 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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