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**SPRINGVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® UTAH GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 10, 2011) — In its 26th 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 2010-11 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 senior guard led the Red Devils to a 22-1 record and a second consecutive Class 4A state championship this past season. The state's returning Gatorade Girls Basketball Player of the Year, Eaton averaged 28.7 points, 7.0 rebounds, 3.4 steals, 3.2 assists and 0.9 blocks per game. She recorded 25 points, 12 rebounds, four steals, two assists and two blocks in the 44-40 state title-clinching victory against Mountain Crest, capturing state championship game Most Valuable Player honors. Also the 2010 Miss Basketball selection as named by the *Deseret News*, Eaton produced 25.1 points, 6.3 rebounds, 2.5 steals and 2.3 assists per contest as a junior.

Also an accomplished pianist, organist and violinist, Eaton has maintained a 3.95 GPA in the classroom. A Young Womanhood Recognition award recipient, she has volunteered as a youth basketball instructor in addition to donating her time at a local nursing home.

"Lexi is an unbelievable athlete with so much skill and talent," said Springville head coach Nancy Warner. "She exemplifies what a remarkable athlete she is as she demonstrates so many qualities both on and off the court. She is extremely dedicated and is always working hard to improve not only herself but her team as well. She possesses all the positive traits that any coach would ever want in an athlete, and I couldn't be more grateful to be her coach. I'm so proud of Lexi and all that she has accomplished, and all that she will accomplish in her future."

Eaton has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Brigham Young 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.

Two time winner Eaton joins recent Gatorade Utah Girls Basketball Players of the Year Haley Holmstead (2008-09, American Fork), and Dani Peterson (2007-08, Skyline) among the state's list of former award winners.

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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