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**LAKE REGION UNION HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® VERMONT 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 Kylie Atwood of Lake Region Union High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Vermont Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Atwood is the first Gatorade Vermont Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lake Region 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 Atwood 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, Atwood 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-4 junior guard has led the Rangers to a 20-1 record and a berth in the Division 3 semifinals against Oxbow, scheduled for March 10. Atwood averaged 19.2 points, 2.7 rebounds, 2.3 assists and 2.1 steals per game before a knee injury ended her season prior to the state playoffs. She is a two-time Vermont Basketball Coaches Association Dream Dozen selection, a two-time First Team All-Mountain Division choice and was a Third Team *Burlington Free Press* All-State pick as a sophomore in 2010.

Atwood has maintained a B average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of youth basketball programs.

"She gets everyone involved and gets others easy shots because she demands so much attention," said Tim Lyons, head coach of rival Richford High. "But when she has to take over a game and make things happen herself, she can do that as well."

Atwood has verbally committed to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Vermont and will begin her senior year of high school 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.

Atwood joins recent Gatorade Vermont Girls Basketball Players of the Year Allison Gannon (2009-10, Champlain Valley Union), Tiffany Johnson (2008-09, Bellows Free Academy), and Alyssa Herrington (2007-08, Mt. Anthony Union) 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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