

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)

**BOB JONES HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ALABAMA BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 17, 2011) — In its 26th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Levi Randolph of Bob Jones High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Alabama Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Randolph is the first Gatorade Alabama Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bob Jones 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 Randolph as Alabama's best high school boys basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year award to be announced in March, Randolph joins an elite alumni association of past state boys basketball award winners, including Dwight Howard (2003-04, SW Atlanta Christian Academy, Ga.), Chauncey Billups (1993-94 & 1994-95, George Washington HS, Colo.), Jason Kidd (1991-92, St. Joseph Notre Dame HS, Calif.), Paul Pierce (1994-95, Inglewood HS, Calif.) and Chris Bosh (2001-02, Lincoln HS, Texas).

The 6-foot-5, 185-pound senior guard averaged 19.5 points, 5.9 rebounds, 2.1 assists and 1.5 steals per game this past season, leading the Patriots (26-10) to the Class 6A regional finals. The returning Class 6A Player of the Year as named by the Alabama Sports Writers Association, Randolph shot 48.9 percent from the field and 71.0 percent from the free-throw line. He produced 23 points, seven rebounds and three assists per contest as a junior, leading Bob Jones High to the 2010 Class 6A state championship and capturing state tournament Most Valuable Player honors.

Randolph has maintained a 3.78 GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating his time as a youth basketball instructor, he has volunteered locally on behalf of the Salvation Army and as part of a youth literacy-outreach program.

"I'm glad Levi Randolph graduated—that's what I told him," said Jamie Lee, head coach of rival Decatur High. "He's very talented. He has unbelievable skill and athleticism. He sees the game so much quicker. It comes so easy to him. He has the ability to put the ball on the floor and go by you, take the mid-range shot, shoot the 3-pointer or post you up—a little bit of everything. He's tough to guard, no doubt. University of Alabama is lucky to get him."

Randolph has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Alabama 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.

Randolph joins recent Gatorade Alabama Boys Basketball Players of the Year KT Harrell (2009-10, Brewbaker Technology Magnet), Jordan Swing (2008-09, Vestavia Hills), and JaMychal Green (2007-08, St. Jude), 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.

###