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**WEST ANCHORAGE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® ALASKA BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 17, 2011) — In its 26<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Devon Bookert of West Anchorage High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Alaska Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Bookert is the fourth Gatorade Alaska Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from West Anchorage 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 Bookert as Alaska'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, Bookert 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-3 senior guard led the Eagles to a 17-5 record and a berth in the Class 4A state tournament again Palmer, scheduled for March 17. Entering the postseason, Bookert is averaging 25.0 points, 8.5 assists, 7.1 rebounds and 3.6 steals per game. A two-time First Team All-State selection, he has been named Class 4A Player of the Year and Cook Inlet Conference MVP.

Bookert has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally feeding the homeless and mentoring freshmen students at his school.

"Bookert can do things most high school kids just can't," said Rob Galosich, head coach of rival Dimond High. "He's got great stop-and-go speed, great body control, a great mid-range game and a great deep game."

Bookert remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Bookert joins recent Gatorade Alaska Boys Basketball Players of the Year Kyle Fossman (2009-10, Haines), Ryan Hanley (2008-09, Dimond), and Kevin Winford (2007-08, Bartlett) 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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