

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)**

**LONG BEACH POLY STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® CALIFORNIA 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 Ryan Anderson of Long Beach Poly as its 2010-11 Gatorade California Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Anderson is the first Gatorade California Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Long Beach Poly.

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 Anderson as California'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, Anderson 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-8, 215-pound senior forward averaged 16.5 points, 9.7 rebounds and 2.2 assists this past season while averaging 55 percent shooting from the floor, leading the Jackrabbits (31-2) to the Division I regional semifinals. A 2010 First Team All-State selection, he scored 18 points with 21 rebounds in a win over Centennial High to clinch the Division I CIF Southern Section title.

Anderson has maintained a 3.17 GPA in the classroom. A senior counselor in his school's peer leadership program, he has volunteered locally as a youth basketball coach.

"Ryan Anderson grew up in our program and to see how he's matured since his freshman year is amazing," said Long Beach Polytechnic High Head Coach Sharrief Metoyer. "He's very consistent and extremely versatile for a big guy. He dominates inside the paint but can shoot the ball from the outside as well as anybody."

Anderson has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Boston College 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.

Anderson joins recent Gatorade California Boys Basketball Players of the Year Allen Crabbe (2009-10, Price), Michael Snaer (2008-09, Rancho Verde), and Irue Holiday (2007-08, Campbell Hall), 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).

###