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**ROCK ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® ILLINOIS 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 Chasson Randle of Rock Island High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Illinois Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Randle is the first Gatorade Illinois Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Rock Island 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 Randle as Illinois'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, Randle 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-2, 175-pound senior guard led the Rocks to a 28-3 record and a berth in the Class 3A state semifinals against Brooks College Prep, scheduled for March 18. Randle is averaging 22.3 points, 7.7 rebounds, 2.1 steals and 2.0 assists per game while shooting 53 percent from the field, 35 percent from 3-point range and 77 percent from the free-throw line. Also a two-time returning Class 3A/4A First Team All-State selection as named by the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association, he participated on the 2010 USA Basketball Men's U17 National Team, which won a world title last summer.

Randle has maintained a 4.00 GPA in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade Award's broad criteria. In addition to donating his time as a youth basketball instructor, he has volunteered locally on behalf of his church, Families First, The PeaceBuilders Program and the Salvation Army.

"I've had the privilege to coach against him the last three seasons," said Ryan Webber, head coach of rival Moline High. "He's been a four-year starter for one of the best programs in a great, great state for high school basketball. He's really intelligent. In terms of character, he's an all-around super kid. On the court, he's a handful, because he can shoot so well, he can drive and he can get to the basket. He's an exceptional free-throw shooter and passer. And he's an on-court leader. He never gets rattled. He's led his team to an awful lot of wins the last few years. He's made quite a name for himself."

Randle has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Stanford 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.

Randle joins recent Gatorade Illinois Boys Basketball Players of the Year Rayvonte Rice (2009-10, Centennial), Matt Vogrich (2008-09, Lake Forest), and Michael Dunigan (2007-08, Farragut), 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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