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**WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® INDIANA 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 Cody Zeller of Washington High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Indiana Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Zeller is the second Gatorade Indiana Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Washington 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 Zeller as Indiana'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, Zeller 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-11, 215-pound senior center led Washington to a 22-4 record and a berth in the Class 3A semifinals against Batesville High, scheduled for March 19. Entering the state final four, Zeller is averaging 23.7 points, 13 rebounds, 3.6 assists and 1.9 blocks per game while shooting 66 percent from the field. A 2011 Indiana Mr. Basketball finalist and a 2011 McDonald's High School All-American Game selection, he is ranked as the nation's No. 12 recruit in the ESPNU Top 100.

Zeller has maintained a 3.99 GPA in the classroom. A devoted parishioner in his church community, he has volunteered locally on behalf of Habitat for Humanity and Read Across America.

"Cody Zeller plays the game the way it's supposed to be played," said Rick Wilgus, head coach of rival Evansville Memorial High. "Emotionally, he never gets too high or too low and he always makes the plays that need to be made. He seems like a great kid to coach and he is not affected by all the attention he receives."

Zeller has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Indiana 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.

Zeller joins recent Gatorade Indiana Boys Basketball Players of the Year Travis Carroll (2009-10, Danville Community), Jordan Hulls (2008-09, Bloomington South), and Tyler Zeller (2007-08, Washington), 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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