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Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)

ELLIOTT COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE® KENTUCKY 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 Timmy Knipp of Elliott County High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Kentucky Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Knipp is the first Gatorade Kentucky Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Elliott County 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 Knipp as Kentucky'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, Knipp 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, 210-pound senior guard averaged 25.6 points, 9.9 rebounds, 6.8 assists, 5.7 blocks and 3.0 steals per game this past season, leading the Lions (17-10) to the regional semifinals. A returning First Team All-State selection as named by *The Courier-Journal*, he shot 54.0 percent from the field, 33.3 percent from 3-point range and 74.9 percent from the free-throw line.

Knipp has maintained a B average 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 and referee, he has visited numerous elementary school classrooms to speak about the importance of leadership, hard work and the value of education.

"He's a great player," said Scott Floyd, head coach of rival Raceland High. "He can go inside, and he can go outside. He can handle it, he can defend it and he can rebound it. He creates such a huge matchup problem for anybody. He can go around the bigger players, and he can post up the smaller players. If you double him, he passes well. He's a 6-foot-8 shooter, and those are hard to find."

Knipp has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Eastern Kentucky 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.

Knipp joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Boys Basketball Players of the Year Elisha Justice (2009-10, Shelby Valley), Jon Hood (2008-09, Madisonville North Hopkins), and Darius Miller (2007-08, Mason County), 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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