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**BISMARCK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® NORTH DAKOTA 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 Dexter Werner of Bismarck High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade North Dakota Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Werner is the first Gatorade North Dakota Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bismarck 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 Werner as North Dakota'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, Werner 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-5, 210-pound senior forward averaged 19.2 points, 9.4 rebounds, 2.8 assists and 1.9 blocks per game this past season, leading the Demons (16-4) to the Class A state final. A two-time First Team All-Tournament selection, he led the Western Dakota Conference in both scoring and rebounding.

Werner has maintained a 4.0 in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade Award's broad criteria. He has volunteered locally on behalf of food drives for the needy and as a youth basketball coach in addition to completing a service mission to the Dominican Republic.

"Dexter Werner is the ultimate leader and team player," said Bismarck High Head Coach Steve Miller. "No one works harder than he does to make himself into a better basketball player and person."

Werner remains undecided upon a college 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.

Werner joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Boys Basketball Players of the Year Nik Savageau (2009-10, Fargo North), Joe Hanstad (2008-09, Dickinson), and Austin Dufault (2007-08, Killdeer), 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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