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**FRIENDS' CENTRAL SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® PENNSYLVANIA 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 Amile Jefferson of Friends' Central School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Jefferson is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Friends' Central 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 Jefferson as Pennsylvania'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, Jefferson 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 junior forward led the Phoenix to a 23-4 record and the Pennsylvania Independent Schools championship this past season. Jefferson averaged 17.7 points, 9.7 rebounds and 1.9 blocks per game. The nation's No. 9 junior as rated by ESPN, he is a two-time First Team All-Friends League selection.

Jefferson has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of the Police Athletic League and youth sports programs.

"He's got good footwork and finishes in different ways around the hoop," said Seth Eilberg, head coach of rival Hill School. "He can also face up and shoot it, or put the ball on the floor. He was dominant both times we played them."

Jefferson will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Jefferson joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Basketball Players of the Year Tony Chennault (2009-10, Neumann-Goretti), Maalik Wayns (2008-09, Roman Catholic), and Brian Walsh (2007-08, Moon Area), 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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