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**EDISTO HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® SOUTH CAROLINA 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 Brice Johnson of Edisto High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade South Carolina Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Johnson is the first Gatorade South Carolina Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Edisto 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 Johnson as South Carolina'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, Johnson 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-9, 195-pound junior frontcourt standout averaged 23.2 points, 12.2 rebounds, 7.4 blocks, 3.4 assists and 2.1 steals this past season, leading the Cougars (12-10) to the Class 2A state tournament. A 2011 First Team All-State selection, he recorded 18 double-doubles and four triple-doubles this season.

Johnson has maintained a B average in the classroom. A devoted parishioner in his church community and a member of the National Honor Society, he has volunteered locally on behalf of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and as a youth mentor.

"Brice Johnson is a very skilled big kid who shoots and handles the ball extremely well," said Antoine Saunders, head coach of rival St. John's High. "He carried that team completely and he is without question one of the top 30 recruits in the country in his class."

Johnson 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.

Johnson joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Boys Basketball Players of the Year RJ Slawson (2009-10, Fort Dorchester) and Milton Jennings (2007-08 & 2008-09, Pinewood) 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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