Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)

## LONE PEAK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE® UTAH 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 Nick Emery of Lone Peak High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Utah Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Emery is the second Gatorade Utah Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lone Peak 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 Emery as Utah'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, Emery 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-1 sophomore guard led the Knights to a 24-1 record and the Class 5A state title this past season. Emery averaged 21.7 points, 3.9 assists, 3.8 rebounds and 2.3 steals per game. MVP of the Class 5A state tournament, he was a Second Team All-State selection as a freshman.

Emery has maintained a 3.84 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of his church community, he has volunteered locally assisting the elderly and coaching youth basketball players, and has served as a peer tutor for physically challenged children.

"People keep asking me how you can stop him and the answer is that I don't know," said Rob Geertsen, head coach of rival Jordan High. "He's very good getting to the basket and getting to the line, and you can't guard him in transition. He's really the high school version of Jimmer Fredette."

Emery will begin his junior 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.

Emery joins recent Gatorade Utah Boys Basketball Players of the Year Kyle Collinsworth (2009-10, Provo) and Tyler Haws (2007-08 & 2008-09, Lone Peak) 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 <u>playeroftheyear.gatorade.com</u>.