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**RIPLEY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® WEST VIRGINIA 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 Chase Fischer of Ripley High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade West Virginia Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Fischer is the first Gatorade West Virginia Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Ripley 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 Fischer as West Virginia'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, Fischer 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-4 senior guard averaged 37.0 points, 6.7 rebounds, 5.7 assists and 2.5 steals per game this past season, leading the Vikings (15-9) to the Region 3, Section 1 semifinals. The state's leading scorer each of the last two years, Fischer also sunk 5.9 three-pointers per game. He was chosen Mountain State Athletic Conference Player of the Year and is a First Team All-State selection.

Fischer has maintained a 3.39 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a tutor for elementary school students and as a youth basketball camp counselor.

"Fischer scores a lot of points, but he shares the ball with his teammates too," said Jerry Bradley, head coach of rival Greenbrier East. "He's got good size, he handles the ball well and he's very smooth. He's always poised and under control."

Fischer has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Wake Forest 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.

Fischer joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Boys Basketball Players of the Year Noah Cottrill (2009-10, Logan), Aaron Dobson (2008-09, South Charleston), and Bryant Irwin (2007-08, Bridgeport), 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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