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## **Dakota Wizards Guard Ahearn Earns First Nba D-League Gatorade Call-Up Of The Year**

**Bismarck, ND November 16, 2008** – Dakota Wizards guard Blake Ahearn today earned the first GATORADE Call-Up of the 2008-09 NBA Development League season when he signed with the San Antonio Spurs. He is scheduled to join the team tonight in Sacramento when the Spurs visit the Kings. He will wear jersey number 18.

Ahearn played in 41 games (15 starts) for the 2007-08 Central Division Champion Dakota Wizards, where he averaged 19.0 points and 3.5 assists and shot 48.6 percent from the field, 43.9 percent from three-point range and 96.0 percent from the free throw line in 29.5 minutes of action. He led the Wizards in three-point field goals made (108), was second in points (778), field goals made (239), free throws made (192), assists (142) and was third in minutes played (1,208) and steals (30).

"It's crazy. Not unexpected, just crazy," said Wizards head coach Duane Ticknor who was picking up Blake from the airport in Bismarck when he got the call. "One minute I am welcoming him home and helping get his bags, the next he is back on the same plane he came in on headed to meet up with the spurs in Sacramento. It couldn't happen to a better guy and we wish him all the luck."

The first GATORADE Call-Up this season, and the second for Blake in his career (Miami Heat 07-08 season), Ahearn was a standout at Missouri State where he averaged 13.1 points and 1.8 assists while shooting 42.3 percent from the field for his career. He finished his NCAA career as the all-time leading free throw shooter in NCAA Division I history, while finishing as Missouri State's seventh all-time leading scorer with 1,677 points.

Ahearn joins fellow NBA D-League alumni Ime Udoka and Ian Mahinmi on the Spurs roster.

The Dakota Wizards tip-off their third season in the D-League on Friday, November 29th at 7:00pm against the Iowa Energy. 2008-09 Season Tickets start at just \$99. For more information, please visit [www.dakotawizards.com](http://www.dakotawizards.com) or call 701-258-BALL

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