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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Minnesota Timberwolves Forward Kevin Love Wins 2010-11 Kia NBA Most Improved Player Award

Minneapolis/St. Paul - Minnesota Timberwolves forward Kevin Love is the winner of the 2010-11 Kia NBA Most Improved Player Award, the NBA announced today. The award, presented annually to a player who has made a significant improvement from the previous season, is the first for Love as well as the first for a Timberwolves player.

Love received 400 of a possible 580 points, including 66 first-place votes, from a panel of 116 sportswriters and broadcasters throughout the United States and Canada. LaMarcus Aldridge of the Portland Trail Blazers (157 points, 11 first-place votes) and Dorell Wright of the Golden State Warriors (124 points, 16 first-place votes) finished second and third, respectively.

"This is a fantastic honor. I'm truly humbled to be recognized by the media for all my hard work this past offseason, and also thankful to my great teammates and coaches who played a large role in all that I accomplished on an individual level this past season," Love said. "After watching some of these great playoff games this week, I'm as motivated as ever to get back in the gym and work even harder so that next year my teammates and I will still be playing when award season rolls around."

Love averaged career-highs in scoring (20.2 ppg), rebounding (15.2 rpg), assists (2.5 apg), field-goal percentage (.470), three-point percentage (.417) and free-throw percentage (.850) for the Wolves this season en route to earning his first NBA All-Star selection. In doing so, he became just the 14th player in NBA history to average 20+ points and 15+ rebounds per game, and the first since Moses Malone did so during the 1982-83 season. Love is also the first player in league history to average 12 or more rebounds per game while shooting better than 40% from beyond the arc.

"Kevin showed tremendous growth this season in all facets of the game, and this well-deserved honor is a testament to how hard he's worked this past year," said David Kahn, Timberwolves President of Basketball Operations. "With his combination of unique skills and a determination to be among the elite players in the league, I'm confident that Kevin's best days in this league are still to come."

The league's leading rebounder at 15.2 boards per game, Love tallied 20 or more rebounds on 13 occasions and recorded 11 games with 20+ points/20+ rebounds (after doing so once in his previous two seasons combined). Love had four 20/20 games during November and three consecutive 20/20s in March, both feats that hadn't been accomplished since Kevin Willis did so during the 1991-92 season. With his 31-point/31-rebound performance in a win over New York on Nov. 12, Love became just the 19th player in NBA history to post a 30/30 game—and the first since Moses Malone in 1982.

- MORE -

Kevin Love Most Improved
Thursday, Apr. 21, 2011
Page 2 of 2

"Kevin made great strides this season, and he's only scratching the surface of the player he can become in this league," Timberwolves head coach Kurt Rambis said. "Our entire organization is proud of what he's accomplished thus far, and eager to watch his continued development in the years to come."

As part of its support of the Most Improved Player Award, Kia Motors America will donate a new Kia Sorento CUV on behalf of Love to the charity of his choice—the Dylan Witschen Foundation, which celebrates and honors the life of Dylan Witschen by providing scholarships to college-bound students and raising funds in support of St. Jude's cancer research efforts. Love first met Dylan, an Anoka, Minn., native, in 2008 when he served as an ambassador for St. Jude's Rookie Relief campaign while Dylan was undergoing treatment for cancer at St. Jude's Children's Hospital in Memphis. The two developed a close relationship, with Love hosting Dylan and his family at numerous Wolves games over the last three years. Dylan lost his battle with cancer last summer, but Love remains close with the family and committed to helping honor Dylan's memory. For more information about the foundation, log on to www.dylanwitschenfoundation.com.

The 2010-11 Kia Most Improved Player Award is part of a series of on-court performance awards called "The Kia NBA Performance Awards." The series, currently in its fourth season, is a significant part of the multiyear marketing partnership between Kia Motors America and the NBA, and also includes the Sixth Man, Defensive Player and Most Valuable Player of the Year Awards. It also includes the Kia NBA Eastern and Western Conference Players of the Month, which are awarded during the regular season. For more information on the "The Kia NBA Performance Awards" visit www.NBA.com/performanceawards.

Some additional notes on Love's historic season are attached.

Contact information:

Mike Cristaldi, Minnesota Timberwolves, (612) 673-8405, cristaldi@timberwolves.com

Mark Rosenberg, Minnesota Timberwolves, (612) 673-1607, rosenberg@timberwolves.com

Dan Bell, Minnesota Timberwolves, (612) 673-1603, bell@timberwolves.com

www.timberwolves.com

Kevin Love - 2010-11 Most Improved Player

- Averaged career highs in scoring (20.2 ppg), rebounding (15.2 rpg), assists (2.5 apg), field-goal percentage (.470), three-point percentage (.417) and free-throw percentage (.850).
- The last player to average 20+ points and 15+ rebounds over an entire season was Moses Malone, who averaged 24.5 ppg and 15.3 rpg in 1982-83. The complete list of players in NBA history to average 20/15 (min. 50 games) is as follows:

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar	Dave Cowens	Jerry Lucas	Truck Robinson
Elgin Baylor	Elvin Hayes	Moses Malone	Nate Thurmond
Walt Bellamy	Neil Johnston	Bob McAdoo	
Wilt Chamberlain	Kevin Love	Bob Pettit	

- Finished with 64 double-doubles this season (second in the NBA behind Dwight Howard's 66) after tallying 65 total over his first two seasons combined.
 - Love had 53 straight double-doubles from Nov. 22 through Mar. 11, the longest streak in the league since Elvin Hayes had a 55-game run during the 1973-74 season.
 - In Love's rookie year, he tallied 29 double-doubles. This season, he had a double-double *in just one half* 28 times.
 - Love had 51 double-doubles before the All-Star break this season—the most in NBA history. Only one other player has posted 50 double-doubles prior to the All-Star break (George Mikan, 50 in 1950).
- Posted career highs in both points (43 - Dec. 18 at Denver) and rebounds (31 - Nov. 12 vs. New York) this season.
 - With 31 points and career-high 31 rebounds against New York, Love became just the 19th player in NBA history to post a 30/30 game—and the first since Moses Malone in 1982.
 - Love added 17 rebounds and five three-pointers to his career-high 43 points at Denver, marking the first time in NBA history that a player had 40/15 with at least five threes in a regulation-length game.
- Had 11 20/20 games this season (the most in the league since Kevin Willis had 12 during the 1991-92 season), after doing so just once over his first two seasons.
- Love had four games this season with 30+ points and 20+ rebounds. There were only three such games in the NBA all of last season, and only two others this year (Pau Gasol, Dwight Howard).
- Over his first two seasons, Love hit 3+ three-pointers in a game just once. This season, he had 13 such games.
- There were only 16 games this season in which a player hit at least three treys while also grabbing 15+ rebounds. Love was responsible for 11 of the 16.