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Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)

**ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 11, 2010) — In its 25th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Nicola Zimmer of St. John's College High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Zimmer is the fifth Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from St. John's College 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 Zimmer as District of Columbia's best high school girls basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Basketball Player of the Year award announced in March, Zimmer joins an elite alumni association of past state girls basketball award-winners, including Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Diana Taurasi (1998-99 & 1999-00, Don Antonio Lugo HS, Calif.), Maya Moore (2005-06 Collins Hill HS, Ga.), Rashanda McCants (2004-05, Asheville HS, N.C.), Shyra Ely (1999-00, Ben Davis HS, Ind.) and Lisa Leslie (1988-89, Morningside HS, Calif.)

The 5-foot-9 senior point guard led the Cadets (24-6) to the WCAC tournament final this past season, averaging 12 points, 3.5 assists and 3.4 rebounds per game. A 2010 McDonald's All-American Game selection committee nominee, Zimmer recorded double figures in points in 24 of her team's 30 games, including a 19-point performance in the WCAC final against Elizabeth Seton High. Zimmer is a 2010 First Team All-Conference honoree and was selected to play in this month's Buffalo Wild Wings Roundball Classic.

Zimmer has maintained a 4.63 GPA in the classroom. A member of the De La Salle Scholars Program, a school student-empowerment organization, she has volunteered locally as a youth basketball coach, and on behalf of food and clothing drives for area homeless.

"Nicola is the consummate point guard," said St. John's Head Coach Jonathan Scribner. "She completely controls every game with her ball-handling ability. She makes such crucial baskets and rebounds whenever the team needs it most."

Zimmer will attend Dartmouth College this fall, where she will play basketball.

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.

Zimmer joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Basketball Players of the Year Taylor Hilton (2008-09, Sidwell Friends School), Patrice Johnson (2007-08, HD Woodson), and Tia Bell (2006-07, Woodson) among the state's list of former award winners.

To celebrate the award's 25th anniversary, Gatorade wants you to vote for the All-Time Greatest Players of the Year at gatorade.com/POY25. 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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