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Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)

**VANDEBILT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® LOUISIANA 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 Theresa Plaisance of Vandebilt Catholic High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Louisiana Girls Basketball Player of the Year.

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 Plaisance as Louisiana'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, Plaisance 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 state's returning Gatorade Girls Basketball Player of the Year, Plaisance led the Terriers (35-1) to the Class 4A state tournament title this past season, averaging 16.4 points, 10.1 rebounds and 2.0 blocked shots per game. A 2010 McDonald's High School All-American, the 6-foot-5 senior center clicked for 24 points, 11 rebounds and five blocks in the 70-51 Class 4A state championship game victory against Jennings, capturing tournament Most Valuable Player honors. A returning Class 4A First Team All-State selection as named by the Louisiana Sports Writers Association, she shot 52.3 percent from the field and 68.6 percent from the free-throw line this past winter.

Also a standout volleyball player, Plaisance has maintained a 3.21 weighted GPA in the classroom. A member of Students Against Destructive Decisions, she has volunteered locally on behalf of Youth Rebuilding New Orleans, her campus ministry and Habitat for Humanity.

"Theresa Plaisance is a very versatile athlete that has the ability to take over a game at any time," said Vandebilt Catholic Head Coach Kathy Luke. "She can score from inside or from the perimeter. She has the ability to handle the basketball and can make the assist. On defense, she is very intimidating due to her size. She is an all-around good player at 6-foot-5."

Plaisance has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Louisiana State 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.

Plaisance joins recent Gatorade Louisiana Girls Basketball Players of the Year Kristi Bellock (2007-08, John Curtis Christian) and Adrienne Johnson (2006-07, Franklin) 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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