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**NORTH BABYLON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® NEW YORK GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 11, 2010) — In its 25<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Bria Hartley of North Babylon High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade New York 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 Hartley as New York'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, Hartley 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 led the Bulldogs (18-3) to the Class AA Sachem County championship game this past season, where they fell to Sachem East, 71-67, despite Hartley's Long Island playoff record 51 points. A finalist for both the Naismith High School Player of the Year and the Morgan Wootten Player of the Year awards, the 5-foot-10 senior averaged 28.9 points, 8.3 rebounds, 7.4 assists and 5.5 steals per game. Hartley has also been selected to play in both the McDonald's High School All-American Game and the Women's Basketball Coaches Association All-America Game this spring.

Hartley has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has volunteered on behalf of a local fundraising campaign for cancer research and as a math tutor in her school.

"Hartley is a tremendous athlete and a great all-around player," said Bob Mackey, head coach of Christ the King High. "She's got great talent, great skills, she can pass, shoot—she's the complete package."

Hartley has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Connecticut 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.

Hartley joins recent Gatorade New York Girls Basketball Players of the Year Samantha Prahalis (2007-08, Commack) and Lorin Dixon (2006-07, Christ the King) among the state's list of former award winners.

To celebrate the award's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Gatorade wants you to vote for the All-Time Greatest Players of the Year at [gatorade.com/POY25](http://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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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