

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)**

**VILLA MARIA ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® PENNSYLVANIA 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 Kayla McBride of Villa Maria Academy as its 2009-10 Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Basketball Player of the Year. McBride is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Villa Maria Academy.

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 McBride as Pennsylvania'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, McBride 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-11 senior guard has led the Victors (23-2) to the District 10 title and the Class AA state tournament, scheduled to begin March 12. Entering the postseason, McBride boasted averages of 21.0 points, 11.8 rebounds, 5.6 steals, 4.9 assists and 2.7 blocks per game. Her school's all-time leading scorer, she led Villa Maria to the 2009 state crown and has been selected to play in this month's McDonald's High School All-American Game.

McBride has maintained a 3.51 GPA in the classroom. An active member of her school's campus ministry, she has volunteered as an intern in her school's main office and has assisted in coordinating Villa Maria's freshman retreat.

"McBride is the leader that every coach dreams of," said Terry Frontino, head coach of rival North East High. "Every time we play against her she does something different or makes a play that turns the game around—a great pass, a strong drive, a put-back or late game free throws."

McBride has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Notre Dame 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.

McBride joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Basketball Players of the Year Stephanie Holzer (2008-09, Cardinal O'Hara), Markel Walker (2007-08, Schenley), and Jence Rhoads (2006-07, Slippery Rock) 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).

###