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Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)

**MORRISTOWN-HAMBLEN HIGH SCHOOL WEST STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® TENNESSEE 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 Taylor Hall of Morristown-Hamblen High School West as its 2009-10 Gatorade Tennessee Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Hall is the first Gatorade Tennessee Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Morristown-Hamblen High School West.

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 Hall as Tennessee'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, Hall 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.)

At the time of her selection, the 6-foot-1 senior center had led the Trojans (32-1) to a top-30 national ranking and the Class AAA state tournament quarterfinals, scheduled for March 11. Entering the postseason's round of eight, Hall boasted averages of 18.5 points, 9.5 rebounds, 3.7 steals and 3.3 assists per game and had twice recorded a triple-double this season. A two-time Class AAA Miss Basketball finalist, she shot 50.2 percent from the field and 84.9 percent from the free-throw line through 33 games. Also a returning Class AAA First Team All-State selection as named by *The Associated Press*, Hall won an Amateur Athletic Union Girls Basketball National Championship as a 15U and 16U member of the Memphis Elite club team.

Hall has maintained a 4.11 weighted GPA in the classroom. A member of her school's DECA entrepreneurship club, she has volunteered locally for the Boys & Girls Clubs of America and as a youth basketball instructor.

"Taylor Hall is probably the best overall player in the state," said H.L. "Peanut" Cummins, the Amateur Athletic Union Southeastern District Girls Basketball Director. "She handles the ball well, and she works very well with her teammates. She dishes, rebounds, posts up, blocks out—she does all the things it takes to be successful. She's 6-foot-1 and comes to play."

Hall has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga 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.

Hall joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Girls Basketball Players of the Year Faith Dupree (2008-09, Webb School) and Glory Johnson (2007-08 & 2006-07, Webb School) 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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