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**WEST MORGAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ALABAMA GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 10, 2011) — In its 26th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Hayden Hamby of West Morgan High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Alabama Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Hamby is the first Gatorade Alabama Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from West Morgan 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 Hamby as Alabama'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, Hamby 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-7 senior wing averaged 32.9 points, 12.3 rebounds, 4.4 steals and 2.3 assists per game this past season while shooting 86.5 percent from the free throw line and leading the Sabers (20-9) to the Class 3A Area 15 final. A three-time First Team All-Conference selection and the reigning Class 3A Player of the Year, Hamby tied a school single-game record when she scored 56 points against Danville High last month.

Hamby has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom and is ranked first in her class. A devoted member of her church community, she has volunteered locally as a Sunday school teacher as well as on behalf of the National Honor Society and donation drives for the homeless.

"Hayden Hamby is the best high school basketball player that I've seen in a long, long time," said Kim Walker, head coach of rival Ardmore High. "She has the best shot of any player I've coached against. She rarely misses."

Hamby has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Purdue 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.

Hamby joins recent Gatorade Alabama Girls Basketball Players of the Year Kaneisha Horn (2009-10, Ramsay), Adrienne Webb (2008-09, Sparkman), and Courtney Jones (2007-08, Midfield) among the state's list of former award winners.

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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