

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Adam Woullard (312-729-3627)**

**APOLLO HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® ARIZONA GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 10, 2011) — In its 26<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Promise Amukamara of Apollo High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Arizona Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Amukamara is the first Gatorade Arizona Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Apollo 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 Amukamara as Arizona'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, Amukamara 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-8 senior guard led the Hawks to a 25-5 record and the Class 4A-I state championship this past season. Amukamara averaged 21.7 points, 10.8 rebounds, 6.8 assists and 5.3 steals per game. She was named an Honorable Mention All-American by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association and was the Western Sky Conference Player of the Year.

Amukamara has maintained a 3.70 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally with community cleanup initiatives.

"She's a fantastic athlete," said Sue Wilson, head coach of rival Moon Valley High. "And she's really developed her game and skills to become a great basketball player."

Amukamara has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Arizona 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.

Amukamara joins recent Gatorade Arizona Girls Basketball Players of the Year Rebecca Woodberry (2009-10, Tolleson), Davellyn Whyte (2008-09, St. Mary's Catholic), and Amy Patton (2007-08, McClintock) 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

###