

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Adam Woullard (312-729-3627)

**FAYETTEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ARKANSAS 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 Calli Berna of Fayetteville High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Arkansas Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Berna is the first Gatorade Arkansas Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Fayetteville 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 Berna as Arkansas'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, Berna 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-10 senior point guard has led the Bulldogs to a 29-2 record and a berth in the Class 7A state final against Northside, scheduled for March 12. At the time of her selection, Berna was averaging 16.4 points, 5.1 assists, 4.6 rebounds and 3.4 steals per game. A three-time All-State selection, she holds school single-season and career records for steals and assists.

Berna has maintained a 4.02 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of a children's camp and youth basketball programs, and has helped raise funds for the Arkansas Children's Hospital and Haitian relief efforts.

"She's a fabulous passer and a deadly shooter," said Preston Early, head coach of rival Rogers High. "She's one of those kids with a special quality—she's just a winner."

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

Berna joins recent Gatorade Arkansas Girls Basketball Players of the Year Morgan Hook (2008-09 & 2009-10, Rogers) and Shekinna Stricklen (2007-08, Morrilton) 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.

###