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**BACON ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® CONNECTICUT 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 Katie Mahoney of Bacon Academy as its 2010-11 Gatorade Connecticut Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Mahoney is the first Gatorade Connecticut Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bacon 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 Mahoney as Connecticut'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, Mahoney 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 guard has led the Bobcats to a 25-0 record and a berth in the semifinals of the Class L state tournament against Hillhouse, scheduled for March 11. At the time of her selection, Mahoney was averaging 22.7 points, 5.3 rebounds, 3.8 assists and 3.1 steals per game. An All-State selection in 2010, she's also a three-time All-Eastern Connecticut Conference choice.

Mahoney has maintained an A-plus average in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade Award's broad criteria. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the American Red Cross, and has raised funds to benefit cancer research and Haitian relief organizations.

"Mahoney is the complete package," said Frank Waters of rival Avon High. "She's very difficult to defend once she gets the ball, and she has a great ability to shoot off the dribble. She's just a wonderful player on both ends of the court."

Mahoney remains undecided regarding a collegiate destination.

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.

Mahoney joins recent Gatorade Connecticut Girls Basketball Players of the Year Kastine Evans (2009-10, Norwich Free Academy), Symone Roberts (2008-09, New Britain), and Heather Buck (2007-08, Stonington) 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).

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