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**ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 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 Mooriah Rowser of St. John's College High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Rowser is the fifth Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from St. John's College 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 Rowser as District of Columbia'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, Rowser 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-9 junior guard led the Cadets (30-2) to the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference championship and the Abe Pollin City Title this past season. Rowser averaged 15.4 points, 6.7 rebounds and 2.5 steals per game while shooting 47.5 percent from the field. The 2011 City Title game MVP, she helped St. John's to a No. 22 ranking in the USA Today Super 25 poll and a No. 17 ranking in the ESPN RISE Hoopgurlz FAB 50.

Rowser has maintained a 3.44 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a peer tutor and on behalf of an area homeless shelter.

"Mooriah Rowser is one of the most dynamic players I have ever coached," said St. John's Head Coach Jonathan Scribner. "She put our team on her back for most of the season and she was such a huge part of our success here."

Rowser will begin her senior year of high school 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.

Rowser joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Basketball Players of the Year Nicola Zimmer (2009-10, St. John's College), Taylor Hilton (2008-09, Sidwell Friends School), and Patrice Johnson (2007-08, HD Woodson) 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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