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**SICKLES HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® FLORIDA 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 Amber Henson of Sickles High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Florida Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Henson is the first Gatorade Florida Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Sickles 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 Henson as Florida'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, Henson 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 6-foot-4 senior forward averaged 20.7 points, 13.7 rebounds and 6.8 blocks per game this past season, leading the Gryphons (19-11) to the Class 5A state semifinals. A 2011 Women's Basketball Coaches Association High School All-America Game selection, Henson also recorded 2.5 assists and 1.8 steals per contest. A 2010 USA Basketball Women's U17 National Team Trials invitee and a 2009 Amateur Athletic Union 16U Division I National Championships All-American selection, she produced 22.1 points, 12.1 rebounds and 4.9 blocks per game as a junior.

Henson has maintained a 4.45-weighted GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society, she has also volunteered by serving special needs children on behalf of her church.

"There's a lot of talent out there, but a lot of kids don't understand when to take over a game and when to defer to teammates," said Jack Givens, President and CEO of the Orlando Comets Basketball and Athletic Corporation. "She has a real good understanding of that. That's a huge asset when you're coaching a kid with as much talent as she has. She was always willing to do whatever it took to help her team win. As far as talent is concerned, at 6-foot-4, I don't know if there's another kid in the country who can shoot the ball with the range she has. I've coached AAU for a lot of years, and I've had some great players, but she's the first one who has that blend of extreme talent inside and outside."

Henson has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Duke 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.

Henson joins recent Gatorade Florida Girls Basketball Players of the Year Dawnn Maye (2009-10, Dillard), Ashley Jones (2008-09, Lake Howell), and Tiffany Hayes (2007-08, Winter Haven) 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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