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**BOLINGBROOK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ILLINOIS 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 Ariel Massengale of Bolingbrook High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Illinois Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Massengale is the first Gatorade Illinois Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bolingbrook 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 Massengale as Illinois'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, Massengale 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-6 senior point guard led the Raiders to a 29-2 record and a third-consecutive Class 4A state championship this past season. A 2011 Women's Basketball Coaches Association High School All-America Game selection, Massengale averaged 14.7 points, 7.8 assists, 4.2 steals and 3.4 rebounds per game while posting a 52.3 field-goal percentage. Also the Player of the Year as named by the *Chicago Sun-Times*, she set a Class 4A state title game record with 11 assists in the 71-42 victory against Zion-Benton High. A member of the USA Basketball Women's U16 and U17 National Teams in 2009 and 2010, Massengale produced 13.5 points, 5.5 assists, 4.2 rebounds and 4.0 steals per contest as a junior.

Massengale has maintained a 3.83-weighted GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating her time as a youth basketball instructor, she has volunteered locally on behalf of her church, a food bank and a women's shelter.

"Ariel is the coach on the floor," said Bolingbrook Head Coach Tony Smith. "She does an exceptional job of reading her teammates and making the correct plays. She does the things that don't always get the recognition like getting on the floor for loose balls and taking charges. She has the ability to lead her team in multiple respects from leading in scoring to assists."

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

Massengale joins recent Gatorade Illinois Girls Basketball Players of the Year Tricia Liston (2008-09 & 2009-10, Fenwick) and Sarah Boothe (2007-08, Warren Township) 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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