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**OLATHE SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® KANSAS 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 Natalie Knight of Olathe South High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Kansas Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Knight is the second Gatorade Kansas Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Olathe South 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 Knight as Kansas'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, Knight 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 guard has led the Falcons to a 21-1 record entering the Class 6A state quarterfinals against Washburn Rural High, scheduled for March 9. The returning Kansas City Star All-Metro Player of the Year, Knight was averaging 16.6 points, 6.0 assists, 4.8 rebounds and 4.6 steals per game at the time of her selection while posting a 61.8 field-goal percentage. A two-time returning Class 6A First Team All-State selection as named by the Kansas Basketball Coaches Association, she produced 17 points, five rebounds, four assists and four steals per contest as a junior, leading the Falcons to the Class 6A state title and capturing All-Tournament Most Valuable Player honors.

Knight has maintained a 3.38 GPA in the classroom and has served as a member of her school's student advisory board each of the past three years. In addition to donating her time as a youth basketball instructor, she has also volunteered locally as part of a fundraiser to benefit an elementary school damaged by fire.

"I've been in coaching 34 years now, having seen a lot of great players over the years," said Olathe South Head Coach Steve Ingram. "She is one of the top players I've ever seen and certainly the best I've ever coached. We have been fortunate to have had 40 girls go on to play college basketball in my 22 years at South. For Natalie to be at the top of almost every category in the school's history is truly amazing."

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

Knight joins recent Gatorade Kansas Girls Basketball Players of the Year Tiffany Bias (2009-10, Andover Central), Taber Spani (2008-09, Metro Academy), and Kendra Frazier (2007-08, Labette County) 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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