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**ST. JAMES HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® LOUISIANA 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 Brandi Jeffery of St. James High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Louisiana Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Jeffery is the first Gatorade Louisiana Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from St. James 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 Jeffery as Louisiana'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, Jeffery 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-8 senior guard led the Wildcats to a 27-8 record and the Class 3A state championship this past season. A two-time returning Class 2A Honorable Mention All-State selection as named by the Louisiana Sports Writers Association, Jeffery averaged 23.4 points, 10.3 rebounds, 4.6 assists and 4.3 steals per game. She recorded 16 points and 18 rebounds in the 61-49, state title-clinching victory against Southwood, capturing Most Outstanding Player honors in the process. Jeffery produced 22.3 points per contest as a junior and 21.9 points per game as a sophomore.

Jeffery has maintained a 3.42 GPA in the classroom as an upperclassman. In addition to contributing to her school's newspaper, she has donated her time as a youth basketball instructor.

"Brandi Jeffery is unbelievably remarkable," said Chris Greene, head coach of rival South Beauregard High. "We put two kids on her, and she had 35 on us. What I was most impressed with is the fact that we were trying to make her life miserable on the floor, and we couldn't do it. She never lost her composure."

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

Jeffery joins recent Gatorade Louisiana Girls Basketball Players of the Year Theresa Plaisance (2008-09 & 2009-10, Vandebilt Catholic) and Kristi Bellock (2007-08, John Curtis Christian School) 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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