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**YORK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MAINE 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 Niki Taylor of York High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Maine Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Taylor is the first Gatorade Maine Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from York 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 Taylor as Maine'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, Taylor 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 senior center and forward averaged 16 points, 9.3 rebounds, three steals and 2.1 assists per game this past season while shooting 60 percent from the floor and leading the Wildcats to the Class B regional final. The state's returning Gatorade Girls Basketball Player of the Year, Taylor became York High's career scoring leader, finishing with 1,442 points, breaking the previous mark of 1,413, set by Lani Boardman from 1997 to 2001.

Taylor has maintained a 92.1-percent average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of her town's parks and recreation department in addition to donating her time as an elementary school tutor and youth basketball coach

"Niki Taylor's stats and awards speak for themselves, but they do not do justice to the work ethic and leadership she has supplied to our program," said York High Head Coach Rick Clark. "She works hard every chance she gets to make herself a better player."

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

Two time winner Taylor joins recent Gatorade Maine Girls Basketball Players of the Year Morgan Frame (2008-09, Waterville) and Rachael Mack (2007-08, Cony) 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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