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Contact: Adam Woullard (312-729-3627)

**BISHOP MCNAMARA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MARYLAND 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 Taylor Brown of Bishop McNamara High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Maryland Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Brown is the third Gatorade Maryland Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bishop McNamara 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 Brown as Maryland'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, Brown 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 averaged 20.4 points, 4.8 steals, 3.9 assists and 2.9 rebounds per game this past season, leading the Mustangs (19-10) to the semifinals of the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference Tournament. The 2011 WCAC Player of the Year, Brown was a 2010 *Washington Post* First Team All-Met selection and has been selected to play in the Roundball All-Star Classic and the Elite Showcase Basketball Classic later this month.

Brown has maintained a 3.61 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally at an area homeless shelter and food bank, and she organized a three-day youth basketball camp as a senior service project.

"Taylor Brown is the real deal," said Tom Splaine, head coach of rival Our Lady of Good Counsel High. "She can score from anywhere on the floor. She's as quick as anybody around. She has one of the best stop and pop jumpers in the region. She gets to the rack and she shoots free throws well. It's hard to stop her."

Brown has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Georgetown 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.

Brown joins recent Gatorade Maryland Girls Basketball Players of the Year Kelsey Wolfe (2009-10, Seneca Valley), Tianna Hawkins (2008-09, Riverdale Baptist School), and Tarik Hislop (2007-08, Paint Branch) 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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