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**LAKE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MISSISSIPPI 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 Krista Donald of Lake High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Mississippi Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Donald is the first Gatorade Mississippi Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lake 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 Donald as Mississippi'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, Donald 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-11 senior guard averaged 24.1 points, 9.1 rebounds and 2.7 blocks this past season while shooting at 51 percent from the floor and leading the Hornets (20-12) to the Class 2A semifinals. A three-time First Team All-State selection and *Clarion-Ledger* Dandy Dozen honoree, Donald has scored 2,456 points and grabbed 1,470 rebounds as a four-year varsity starter.

Donald has maintained a 91.7 average in the classroom. A member of her school's Drama Club, she has volunteered locally as a youth basketball coach.

"Krista Donald is an awesome player," said Sue Smith, head coach of rival Pelahatchie High. "She can play outside as well as inside and she is able to handle the ball with both hands. She dominates the backboard and does very well under pressure."

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

Donald joins recent Gatorade Mississippi Girls Basketball Players of the Year Valencia McFarland (2008-09 & 2009-10 Raymond) and April Sykes (2007-08, East Oktibbeha 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.

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