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## BLAIR ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE® NEW JERSEY 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 Temi Fagbenle of Blair Academy as its 2010-11 Gatorade New Jersey Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Fagbenle is the first Gatorade New Jersey Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Blair Academy.

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 Fagbenle as New Jersey'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, Fagbenle 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-4 senior forward led the Buccaneers to a 20-3 record and the Prep A state championship this past season. Fagbenle averaged 18.1 points, 9.7 rebounds, 3.9 blocks, 3.0 assists and 1.9 steals per game. Possessing dual citizenship, Fagbenle is the reigning Women's U18 National Team Player of the Year for England and has been selected to play in the McDonald's All-American Game this spring.

Fagbenle has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom. A talented actress and saxophonist, she has volunteered locally serving food to the needy and coaching youth basketball.

"Her speed and athleticism are a lethal combination, and she's a force defensively," said Grey Simpson, head coach of rival Hill School. "She can make the outside shot, and if you get in her face, it's one dribble and the ball is in the basket."

Fagbenle will attend Harvard University this fall, where she will play basketball.

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.

Fagbenle joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Girls Basketball Players of the Year Haley Peters (2009-10, Peddie School), Laurin Mincy (2008-09, University), and Lakeisha Sutton (2007-08, Trenton Catholic Academy) 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 <u>playeroftheyear.gatorade.com</u>.