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Contact: Adam Woullard (312-729-3627)

**CICERO-NORTH SYRACUSE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEW YORK 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 Breanna Stewart of Cicero-North Syracuse High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade New York Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Stewart is the first Gatorade New York Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Cicero-North Syracuse 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 Stewart as New York'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, Stewart 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 junior forward has led the Northstars to a 19-2 record, the Section 3 Class AA championship and a berth in the Class AA state tournament against Shaker, scheduled for March 12. At the time of her selection, Stewart was averaging 24.4 points, 11.2 rebounds, 5.4 blocks, 3.6 assists and 3.0 steals per game. A starter for the USA Basketball Women's U17 World Championship Team last summer, she led that squad in steals and blocks, ranking second in points and rebounds. Stewart was a Second Team All-State selection and a Fourth Team *Parade* All-American as a sophomore in 2010.

Stewart has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Ronald McDonald House, the March of Dimes, the North Syracuse Optimist Girls Basketball Program and as part of a youth literacy-outreach program.

"Breanna Stewart is just plain unbelievable," said Mike Olley, head coach of rival Liverpool. "She can run the floor, throw an 80-foot pass on the money, block 3-pointers. I've never seen a kid do what she does."

Stewart has verbally committed to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Connecticut and will begin her senior year of high school 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.

Stewart joins recent Gatorade New York Girls Basketball Players of the Year Bria Hartley (2008-09 & 2009-10, North Babylon) and Samantha Prahalis (2007-08, Commack) 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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