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**MIDWEST CITY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® OKLAHOMA 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 Ashley Clark of Midwest City High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Clark is the second Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Midwest City 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 Clark as Oklahoma'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, Clark 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 junior point guard has led the Lady Bombers to a 25-0 record and a berth in the Class 6A state tournament, scheduled to begin on March 10. Clark has averaged 13.9 points, 4.5 rebounds, 3.5 assists and 2.4 steals per game. The 2011 Titan Invitational MVP, Clark has helped Midwest City earn a No. 8 ranking in the *USA Today* Super 25 poll and a No. 36 ranking in the ESPN RISE Hoopgurlz Fab 50.

Clark has maintained a 4.20 weighted GPA in the classroom. A member of her school's student council, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and as a youth basketball coach.

"Ashley Clark has been such a consistent and valuable player for us all season long," said Midwest City High Head Coach Art Bode. "She's picked us up whenever we've needed it and she has become a true leader on the court."

Clark 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.

Clark joins recent Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Basketball Players of the Year Richa Jackson (2009-10, Midwest City), Kevi Luper (2008-09, Adair), and Alyssia Brewer (2007-08, Sapulpa) 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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