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**SPRING VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® SOUTH CAROLINA 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 Xylina McDaniel of Spring Valley High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade South Carolina Girls Basketball Player of the Year. McDaniel is the first Gatorade South Carolina Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Spring Valley 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 McDaniel as South Carolina'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, McDaniel 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-2 junior forward led the Vikings to a 29-0 record and the Class 4A state championship this past season. The returning Class 4A Player of the Year as named by the South Carolina Basketball Coaches Association, McDaniel averaged 18.8 points, 8.8 rebounds, 2.9 steals, 1.9 assists and 1.7 blocks per game. She recorded nine points, seven rebounds, two assists and two steals in the 41-35 state title-clinching victory against Goose Creek. A returning ESPN RISE Underclass All-American and a 2010 USA Basketball Women's U17 National Team Trials invitee, McDaniel averaged 18.4 points, nine rebounds, four blocks and three assists per game as a sophomore.

McDaniel has maintained a B average in the classroom. In addition to donating her time as a youth basketball instructor and as part of a youth literacy-outreach program, she has volunteered on behalf of the Kay Yow Cancer Fund, the Spring Valley Education Foundation, Ronald McDonald House Charities, the March of Dimes, Advancement Via Individual Determination and her church.

"Xylina McDaniel is a talented basketball player and goes the extra mile to excel in all endeavors, including game preparation," said Spring Valley Head Coach Anne Long. "Even though she is our leading scorer, she strives to include all of her teammates, so that they can experience success. Xylina is an exceptional athlete and person. Her defensive skills are relentless. Her mental preparation for practice and games is outstanding. She is a tremendous positive role model for the youth in our community."

McDaniel 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.

McDaniel joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Girls Basketball Players of the Year Kayla Jenerette (2009-10, Travelers Rest) and Morgan Stroman (2007-08 & 2008-09, Lower Richland) 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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