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**MACARTHUR HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® TEXAS 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 Alexis Jones of MacArthur High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Texas Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Jones is the first Gatorade Texas Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from MacArthur 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 Jones as Texas'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, Jones 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-9 junior forward led the Cardinals to a 35-2 record and the Class 5A state championship this past season. A returning ESPN RISE Underclass All-American, Jones averaged 24.0 points, 9.9 rebounds, 7.8 assists, 5.0 steals and 1.5 blocks per game. She recorded 25 points, 14 assists and 11 rebounds in the 74-51 state title-clinching victory against Georgetown High, capturing state championship game Most Valuable Player honors. A two-time returning Class 5A First Team All-State selection as named by the Texas Girls Coaches Association, Jones averaged 8.2 points and 6.4 rebounds as a member of the gold-medal winning USA Basketball U18 National Team at the 2010 FIBA Americas Championship.

Jones has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom. In addition to donating her time locally at a food bank, the YMCA and the Boys & Girls Club of America, she has volunteered as part of a youth literacy-outreach campaign and a charitable holiday gift-giving initiative.

"I've been doing this for 39 years, and Alexis Jones and Tamika Catchings are the two top players we've ever faced," said Sue Cannon, head coach of rival Trinity High. "She's a complete player, and she's so unselfish—that's the thing I love about her. She looks to pass. She's an exceptional scorer, penetrator and 3-point shooter, but the sign of a great player is when you make everyone around you better. She's made her team so much better by playing unselfishly and within the team concept. I've never seen such a complete player as a junior in high school. The thought of having to go against her twice next year is pretty unsettling."

Jones 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.

Jones joins recent Gatorade Texas Girls Basketball Players of the Year Chiney Ogwumike (2009-10, Cy-Fair), Brittney Griner (2008-09, Nimitz), and Nneka Ogwumike (2007-08, Cy-Fair) 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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