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**HOLY NAMES ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® WASHINGTON 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 Erika Johnson of Holy Names Academy as its 2010-11 Gatorade Washington Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Johnson is the first Gatorade Washington Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Holy Names 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 Johnson as Washington'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, Johnson 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-1 senior guard and forward led the Cougars to a 29-0 record and the Class 3A state championship this past season. A two-time returning Class 3A First Team All-State selection as named by The Associated Press, Johnson averaged 16.7 points, 11.4 rebounds, 4.8 assists, 4.0 steals and 2.4 blocks per game. She shot 54 percent from the field and 37 percent from 3-point range. Also a *Seattle Times* All-Area honoree, Johnson produced 13 rebounds, 10 assists and six points in the 57-48, state title-clinching victory against Prairie, earning All-Tournament Team recognition. Her 71 rebounds in the state tournament set the state's single-season postseason record.

Also an accomplished artist, Johnson has maintained a 3.57 GPA in the classroom. She has donated her time locally to feeding the homeless on behalf of her church and reading to the elderly at a retirement home. An aspiring structural engineer, Johnson has also served as an intern for an area general contractor and participated in the Garfield High renovation project.

"She's one of the best players on the West Coast," said Al Aldridge, head coach of rival Prairie High. "She's very good. She's smooth and athletic. And she has not gone after numbers. She does a ton of great things for Holy Names. She waits, and when her team needs her, she steps up. When they don't, she lets her teammates shine, because she has good players around her."

Johnson has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of California 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.

Johnson joins recent Gatorade Washington Girls Basketball Players of the Year Mercedes Wetmore (2009-10, Auburn Riverside), Lindsey Moore (2008-09, Kentwood), and Ashley Corral (2007-08, Prairie) 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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