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**Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)**

**RIVERSIDE ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® LOUISIANA BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 17, 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 Ricardo Gathers of Riverside Academy as its 2010-11 Gatorade Louisiana Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Gathers is the first Gatorade Louisiana Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Riverside 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 Gathers as Louisiana's best high school boys basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year award to be announced in March, Gathers joins an elite alumni association of past state boys basketball award winners, including Dwight Howard (2003-04, SW Atlanta Christian Academy, Ga.), Chauncey Billups (1993-94 & 1994-95, George Washington HS, Colo.), Jason Kidd (1991-92, St. Joseph Notre Dame HS, Calif.), Paul Pierce (1994-95, Inglewood HS, Calif.) and Chris Bosh (2001-02, Lincoln HS, Texas).

The 6-foot-8, 240-pound junior forward led the Rebels to a 33-6 record and a second consecutive Class 2A state championship this past season. He recorded 18 points and 10 rebounds in 22 minutes during the 82-61 state title victory against Evangel. The returning Class 2A Player of the Year as named by the Louisiana Sports Writers Association, Gathers averaged 20.7 points, 16.2 rebounds, 3.9 blocks, 2.3 assists and 1.3 steals per game in 2010-11. He produced 19.8 points, 11.5 rebounds, 4.5 blocks and three assists per contest as a sophomore, capturing 2010 Class 2A state tournament Most Outstanding Player honors in the process.

Gathers has maintained a 3.42 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a referee for a youth basketball league.

"Ricardo Gathers is a man-child playing basketball," said Mike Theus, head coach of the Louisiana Select Nike Travel Team. "He's had a great year for Riverside, and he's the main reason that they played at the level they played. He runs the floor like a gazelle. He's soft on his feet. He'll block a shot or grab a defensive rebound and be the first one down the court, waiting to finish on the other end. I think you're talking about someone who's on a level by himself right now in Louisiana."

Gathers will begin his 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.

Gathers joins recent Gatorade Louisiana Boys Basketball Players of the Year Matt Derenbecker (2008-09 & 2009-10, Metairie Park Country Day School) and Greg Monroe (2007-08, Helen Cox), 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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