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**ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® NEW JERSEY 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 Michael Gilchrist of St. Patrick High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade New Jersey Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Gilchrist is the fourth Gatorade New Jersey Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Patrick 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 Gilchrist as New Jersey'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, Gilchrist 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-7 senior forward averaged 19.4 points, 14.3 rebounds, 6.3 assists, 5.2 blocks and 3.5 steals per game this past season, leading the Celtics (26-1) to the North Jersey Non-Public B final. A finalist for both the Naismith National Boys High School Player of the Year Award and the 2011 Morgan Wootten Player of the Year Award, Gilchrist was selected to play in the Jordan Brand Classic and the McDonald's All-American games. He was the state's Gatorade Boys Basketball Player of the Year as a sophomore and was a member of the USA Basketball Men's U17 National Team that won the world title last summer.

Gilchrist has maintained a B average in the classroom. A member of his school's gospel choir, he has volunteered locally on behalf of food drives and an elementary school basketball program.

"Gilchrist never stops," said Christopher Balent, head coach of rival Elizabeth High. "He's just loaded with energy. He rebounds on both ends of the floor, he can bring the ball up the court and he has the ability to defend any player on the court. He's an outstanding talent, with a great attitude, both on and off the court."

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

Two-time winner Gilchrist joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Boys Basketball Players of the Year Kyrie Irving (2009-10, St. Patrick) and Samardo Samuels (2007-08, St. Benedict's), 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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