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**MELROSE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® TENNESSEE 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 Adonis Thomas of Melrose High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Tennessee Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Thomas is the first Gatorade Tennessee Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Melrose 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 Thomas as Tennessee'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, Thomas 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-6, 210-pound senior forward averaged 21.8 points, 11.2 rebounds and 1.4 blocks per game this past season, leading the Golden Wildcats (24-9) to the Class AAA Sub-Sectionals. A McDonald's All-American Game selection, Thomas is a member of the 2011 USA Junior National Select Team and a two-time Class AAA Mr. Basketball finalist. He concluded his prep basketball career with 2,167 points.

Thomas has maintained a 3.62 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with his church youth group.

"Adonis Thomas is an all-around basketball player," said Eric Robinson, Thomas' AAU coach with the Memphis Magic. "He can play any position for you from point guard to center. Adonis has a physique like Batman. He's got great footwork and he's strong, that's why he can guard any position on the floor."

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

Thomas joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Boys Basketball Players of the Year Joe Jackson (2009-10, White Station), John Jenkins (2008-09, Station Camp), and Leslie McDonald (2007-08, Briarcrest), 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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