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**SCOTT CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MISSISSIPPI GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 8, 2012) — In its 27<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced Victoria Vivians of Scott Central High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Mississippi Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Vivians is the first Gatorade Mississippi Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Scott Central 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 Vivians as Mississippi'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, Vivians joins an elite alumni association of past state girls basketball award-winners, including Candace Parker (2003-04, 2002-03, & 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 sophomore forward averaged 37 points, 13.8 rebounds, 3.6 steals and 1.2 assists this past season, leading the Lady Rebels (26-7) to the Class 2A quarterfinals. A two-time First Team All-State selection, Vivians scored 1,221 points this season and notched more than 30 points in a game 27 times.

Vivians has maintained an 86.5 average in the classroom. An accomplished vocalist and featured performer with her parish choir, she has volunteered locally on behalf of multiple community service initiatives in association with her church youth group.

"Victoria Vivians is a tremendous talent and a hard worker in all aspects of the game, not just offense and scoring" said Jeff Davis, head coach at Clarkdale High. "She works extremely hard on defense and has great athleticism and basketball skills."

Vivians will begin her junior 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 ESPNHS 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.

Vivians joins recent Gatorade Mississippi Girls Basketball Players of the Year Krista Donald (2010-11, Lake High School), Valencia McFarland (2009-10, Raymond), Valencia McFarland (2008-09, Raymond), April Sykes (2007-08 & 2006 - 07, East Oktibbeha County), Janie Mitchell (2003-04, Robert M. Callaway), and Navonda Moore (2002-03, Murrah) 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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