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**MANASQUAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® NEW JERSEY 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 Michaela Mabrey of Manasquan High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade New Jersey Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Mabrey is the first Gatorade New Jersey Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Manasquan 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 Mabrey as New Jersey'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, Mabrey 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 5-foot-11 senior guard led the Warriors to a 26-2 record and a berth in the Group 3 Central finals against Neptune, scheduled for March 6. Mabrey averaged 17.0 points, 6.5 rebounds, 5.9 assists and 2.9 steals through 28 games. The 2012 Kerwin Award winner as top player in the Shore Conference, she is both a McDonald's All-American Game and a Women's Basketball Coaches Association All-America Game selectee.

Mabrey has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of youth basketball programs.

"Mabrey has all the tools," said David Kasyan, head coach at Jackson Liberty High. "Her range and ability to drive to the hoop make her a constant threat on the offensive end. She also handles the ball and makes good decisions. She's exceptional."

Mabrey has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on an athletic scholarship at the University of Notre Dame 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.

Mabrey joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Girls Basketball Players of the Year Temi Fagbenle (2010-11, Blair Academy), Haley Peters (2009-10, Peddie School), Laurin Mincy (2008-09, University), Lakeisha Sutton (2007-08, Trenton Catholic Academy), Tayler Wejnert (2006 - 07, Academy of the Holy Angels), Crystal Langhorne (2003-04, Willingboro), and Crystal Langhorn (2002-03, Willingboro) 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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