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## CICERO-NORTH SYRACUSE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE® NEW YORK 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 **Breanna Stewart of Cicero-North Syracuse High School** as its **2011-12 Gatorade New York Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Stewart is the first Gatorade New York Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Cicero-North Syracuse 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 Stewart as New York'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, Stewart 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-4 senior forward has led the Northstars to an 18-3 record, the Section 3 Class AA championship and a berth in the Class AA state tournament against Colonie, scheduled for March 10. The state's returning Gatorade Girls Basketball Player of the Year, Stewart averaged 25.5 points, 13.2 rebounds, 3.5 blocks, 3.2 assists and 3.2 steals through 21 games. A member of the USA Basketball Women's U19 National Team which won the 2011 FIBA World Championships, she has been selected for both the McDonald's All-American Game and the Women's Basketball Coaches Association All-America Game. The Section III career leader for points scored, Stewart is rated as the nation's No. 1 recruit in the Class of 2012 by the Hoopgurlz ESPNU 100.

Stewart has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Ronald McDonald House, the Salvation Army, youth basketball programs and a literacy-outreach program.

"Breanna Stewart impacts the game more than any kid I've ever seen," said Jim Marsh, head coach at Corcoran High. "She's an unbelievable passer, she sees the floor and with that wingspan it's so difficult to attack their defense. She changes every facet of the game."

Stewart has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on an athletic scholarship at the University of Connecticut 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.

Two time winner Stewart joins former Gatorade New York Girls Basketball Players of the Year Bria Hartley (2009-10 & 2008-09, North Babylon), Samantha Prahalis (2007-08, Commack), Lorin Dixon (2006 - 07, Christ the King), Nkolika Anoskie (2003-04, St. Peter's High School School for Girls), and Shay Doron (2002-03, Christ the King) 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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