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**MOUNT RAINIER HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® WASHINGTON GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 8, 2012) — In its 27th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced **Brittany McPhee of Mount Rainier High School** as its **2011-12 Gatorade Washington Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. McPhee is the first Gatorade Washington Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Mount Rainier 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 McPhee as Washington'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, McPhee 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 sophomore wing averaged 22.7 points, 11.0 rebounds, 3.0 steals, 2.8 assists and 2.6 blocks per game this season, leading the Rams (27-2) to a third-place finish at the Class 4A state tournament, capturing First Team All-Tournament honors. Also a First Team All-Area selection as named by The Seattle Times, McPhee earned South Puget Sound League North Most Valuable Player recognition and has set single-season and career school records for scoring and blocks in just two prep seasons.

McPhee has maintained a 4.00 GPA in the classroom. In addition to serving as a student ambassador at the Inter-high leadership conference, she has donated her time as a youth basketball and soccer instructor.

"Brittany is the best basketball player in our state in my opinion," said Terry Johnson, head coach at Auburn Riverside High. "What is most impressive about Brittany is that she is very unassuming on the court, but then you look at her stats at the end of the game and her numbers are consistently impressive. But she doesn't look to get her own statistics at the expense of her team. She just plays to win. Since I have been coaching at Riverside, she is the most difficult player we have had to deal with in terms of matchups."

McPhee 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.

McPhee joins recent Gatorade Washington Girls Basketball Players of the Year Erika Johnson (2010-11, Holy Names Academy), Mercedes Wetmore (2009-10, Auburn Riverside), Lindsey Moore (2008-09, Kentwood), Ashley Corral (2007-08, Prairie), Angie Bjorklund (2006 - 07, University), Malia O'Neal (2003-04, Garfield), and Emily Westerberg (2002-03, Central Valley) 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.

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