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Contact: Adam Woullard (312-729-3627)

**UNION HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® WASHINGTON BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 22, 2012) — In its 27th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced Jordan Chatman of Union High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Washington Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Chatman is the first Gatorade Washington Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Union 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 Chatman as Washington'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, Chatman 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-5, 195-pound senior guard averaged 20.7 points, 6.3 rebounds, 2.7 assists and 1.9 steals per game this past season, leading the Titans (21-8) to a third-place finish at the Class 4A state tournament. In three games at the state championships, Chatman averaged 27.0 points, 3.0 rebounds, 1.7 steals and 1.3 assists, including a full-court shot as time expired in the state semifinals, capturing tournament MVP honors. The State Player of the Year as named by the Washington Interscholastic Basketball Coaches Association, he shot 41.1 percent from the field and 36.3 percent from 3-point range.

Chatman has maintained a 3.19 GPA in the classroom. In addition to volunteering countless hours on behalf of his church, he will complete a two-year service mission in Taiwan upon finishing high school.

"Jordan is a very good, strong athlete who can play basketball on both ends," said Kelly Blankenship, head coach at Evergreen High. "He's very capable of taking over a game on the offensive end, and able to get his shot at will. When we plan for Union, we plan for Jordan."

Chatman has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Brigham Young University beginning in the fall of 2014.

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.

Chatman joins recent Gatorade Washington Boys Basketball Players of the Year Gary Bell Jr. (2010-11, Kentridge High School), Joe Harris (2009-10, Chelan), Peyton Siva (2008-09, Franklin High School), Abdul Gaddy (2007-08, Bellarmine Prep. School), and Janelle McMillan (2006-07, O'Dea) 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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