

**Contact: Matt Schiffman (312-729-3672)**

**WASILLA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® ALASKA GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 14, 2013) — In its 28<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Alysha Devine of Wasilla High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Alaska Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Devine is the second Gatorade Alaska Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Wasilla 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 Devine as Alaska'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, Devine joins an elite alumni association of past state girls basketball award-winners, including Candace Parker (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 senior guard has led the Warriors to a 27-0 record and a berth in the Class 4A state tournament against Juneau-Douglas, scheduled for March 21. Entering the postseason, Devine is averaging 12.4 points, 6.6 rebounds and 4.2 steals per game. A First Team All-Northern Lights Conference selection, she was named to the All-State Tournament Team each of the last two seasons.

Devine has maintained a 4.09 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of a food bank and youth basketball programs.

"Devine has a great all-around game," said Steve Caciari, head coach at West Valley High. "She's a versatile scorer with nice ball-handling skills, and she plays with a great deal of desire and determination."

Devine has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Alaska-Anchorage 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 the Gatorade high school sports leadership team in partnership with [USA TODAY High School Sports](#), 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.

Devine joins recent Gatorade Alaska Girls Basketball Players of the Year Hannah Mattson (2011-12, West Valley High School), Keiahnna Engel (2010-11 & 2009-10, Dimond High School), Jenna Johnson (2008-09, Wasilla), Sylvia Bullock (2007-08, South Anchorage), and Talisa Rhea (2006-07, Juneau-Douglas) 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 [www.gatorade.com/poy](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

###