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**RIDGEVIEW HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® CALIFORNIA GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 14, 2013) — In its 28th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Erica McCall of Ridgeview High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade California Girls Basketball Player of the Year. McCall is the first Gatorade California Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Ridgeview 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 McCall as California'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, McCall 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-3 senior forward has led the Wolf Pack to a 29-3 record and the semifinals of the Div. 2 state tournament against Lynwood, scheduled for March 16. Through 32 games, McCall is averaging 19.7 points, 15.1 rebounds and 8.5 blocked shots per game. The state's career record-holder for blocked shots, she has been chosen to play in both the McDonald's All-American Game and the Women's Basketball Coaches Association All-America Game. McCall has competed for the USA Basketball Women's U16 and U17 National Teams.

McCall has maintained a 4.11 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of food, clothing and toy donation drives, the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, and an art program for children with learning disabilities.

"McCall is relentless," said Jimmy Henry, head coach at Bakersfield High. "She rebounds well, she has a post game and she's a great shot blocker. Her biggest strength is her ability to give 110 percent. She will not quit on a play."

McCall has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Stanford University 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.

McCall joins recent Gatorade California Girls Basketball Players of the Year Nirra Fields (2011-12, Mater Dei High School), Kaleena Mosqueda-Lewis (2010-11 & 2008-09, Mater Dei High School), Chelsea Gray (2009-10, St. Mary's), Jasmine Dixon (2007-08, Long Beach Poly), and Jeanette Pohlen (2006-07, Brea Olinda) 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.

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