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**REGIS JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® COLORADO 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 Diani Akigbogun of Regis Jesuit High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Colorado Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Akigbogun is the first Gatorade Colorado Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Regis Jesuit 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 Akigbogun as Colorado'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, Akigbogun 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-1 junior forward has led the Raiders to a 24-2 record entering the Class 5A semifinals, scheduled for March 14. Akigbogun averaged 14.2 points, 8.1 rebounds, two blocks and 1.6 assists per game through 26 games. The 2013 Continental League Player of the Year, she has recorded 13 double-doubles.

Akigbogun has maintained a 3.79 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Spanish National Honor Society, she has volunteered locally as an elementary school tutor and on behalf of the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

"Diani Akigbogun can score, rebound, defend and she is just so active on the court," said Tony Speights, head coach at Chaparral High. "She still has room to grow and she will be even better next year."

Akigbogun will begin her senior 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 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.

Akigbogun joins recent Gatorade Colorado Girls Basketball Players of the Year Michaela Neuhaus (2011-12, Highlands Ranch High School), Jamie Katuna (2010-11, Longmont High School), Quincey Noonan (2009-10, Legacy), Anna Prins (2008-09, Broomfield), Alyssa Fressle (2007-08, Highlands Ranch), and Melissa Jones (2006-07, Legacy) 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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