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**RHAM HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® CONNECTICUT 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 Sarah Veilleux of RHAM High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Connecticut Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Veilleux is the first Gatorade Connecticut Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from RHAM 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 Veilleux as Connecticut'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, Veilleux 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 junior guard led the Sachems to a 21-4 record and the Class L semifinals this past season. Veilleux averaged 28.3 points, 11.7 rebounds, 3.9 steals and 3.5 assists per game. A three-time All-Conference selection, she was a Second Team New Haven Register All-State honoree as a sophomore.

Veilleux has maintained a 4.39 GPA in the classroom. Also a volleyball standout, she has served as a tutor in her school and has volunteered locally on behalf of youth sports programs.

"Veilleux is an outstanding player," said Josh Dinerman, head coach at Rocky Hill High. "She's a dominant scorer, but she also does all the little things which make her a complete player. She controls the game, offensively and defensively."

Veilleux 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.

Veilleux joins recent Gatorade Connecticut Girls Basketball Players of the Year Kristin Schatzlein (2011-12, Tolland High School), Katie Mahoney (2010-11, Bacon Academy), Kastine Evans (2009-10, Norwich Free Academy), Symone Roberts (2008-09, New Britain), and Heather Buck (2007-08 & 2006-07, Stonington) 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).

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