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**MCPHERSON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® KANSAS 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 Katelyn Loecker of McPherson High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Kansas Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Loecker is the second Gatorade Kansas Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from McPherson 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 Loecker as Kansas'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, Loecker 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 state's returning Gatorade Girls Basketball Player of the Year, Loecker averaged 17.8 points, 9.7 rebounds, 3.1 assists, 2.6 steals and 2.6 blocks per game this past season, leading the Bullpups (22-4) to the Class 4 state championship game. A returning Class 4A First Team All-State selection as named by the Kansas Basketball Coaches Association, the 6-foot senior forward shot 51 percent from the field and 72 percent from the free throw line. Loecker recorded 25 points and eight rebounds in a 60-53 loss to Wamego in the title game. She averaged 16.2 points, 8.5 rebounds and 3.5 steals as a junior during McPherson's 2011 state title run.

Also a volleyball standout, Loecker has maintained a 4.27 weighted GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating her time as a youth basketball instructor, she has volunteered on behalf of her church, as part of breast cancer research fundraisers and at a community Thanksgiving dinner event.

"Katelyn is a player that has exceptional skill and character," said Jason VenJohn, head coach of rival Winfield High. "As a coach that has faced her twice, she is a kid that's unbelievable and a tough assignment no matter what way you try to guard her. And she's a great defender as well, all while keeping a cool demeanor on the floor."

Loecker has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Oklahoma State 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.

Two time winner Loecker joins recent Gatorade Kansas Girls Basketball Players of the Year Natalie Knight (2010-11, Olathe South High School), Tiffany Bias (2009-10, Andover Central), Taber Spani (2008-09, Metro Academy), Kendra Frazier (2007-08, Labette County), and Morgan Boyd (2006-07, Olathe East) 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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