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**MCDONOGH 35 COLLEGE PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® LOUISIANA 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 Kaitlyn Pratt of McDonogh 35 College Preparatory High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Louisiana Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Pratt is the first Gatorade Louisiana Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from McDonogh 35 College Preparatory 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 Pratt as Louisiana'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, Pratt 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 forward/center averaged 28.6 points, 17.0 rebounds, 8.0 steals, 5.0 assists and 4.0 blocks per game this past season, leading the Roneagles (19-10) to the second round of the Class 4A state tournament. The 2013 District 9-4A MVP and a 2012 Louisiana Sportswriters Association Class 4A Second Team All-State selection, Pratt was the MVP of the Division I 17U AAU National Championship Game as a member of the Kenner Angels in July, 2012.

Pratt has maintained a B average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as part of a fundraising campaign to benefit breast cancer research, on behalf of the US Marine Corps Toys for Tots Foundation and as a youth basketball coach and mentor.

"Kaitlyn plays at a high level all the time and the scoreboard never changes her level of intensity," said Jessica Barber, head coach of Edna Karr High. "She makes you alter your game plan and she makes you invent new schemes to try to stop her, or should I say contain her."

Pratt has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on an athletic scholarship at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock beginning 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.

Pratt joins recent Gatorade Louisiana Girls Basketball Players of the Year Kuaneshia Baker (2011-12, Helen Cox High School), Brandi Jeffery (2010-11, St. James High School), Theresa Plaisance (2009-10 & 2008-09, Vandebilt Catholic), Kristi Bellock (2007-08, John Curtis Christian School), and Adrienne Johnson (2006-07, Franklin) 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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