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**FREELAND HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MICHIGAN 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 Tori Jankoska of Freeland High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Michigan Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Jankoska is the first Gatorade Michigan Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Freeland 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 Jankoska as Michigan'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, Jankoska 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 5-foot-8 senior guard averaged 31.5 points, 7.8 rebounds, 4.9 steals and 3.3 assists per game while shooting at 64 percent from inside the arc, leading the Falcons (22-2) to the Class B regional semifinals. A two-time First Team All-State selection, Jankoska scored at least 20 points in all 24 of her games this season and became the first Saginaw County player to surpass 2,000 career points.

Jankoska has maintained a 4.05 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society and the vice president of her graduating class, she has volunteered on behalf of her school's Hoops for Diabetes fundraiser and as a youth basketball coach.

"Tori Jankoska is a tremendous athlete and she makes basketball look easy," said Michelle Ott, head coach at Ovid-Elsie High. "She's got great natural talent but still pushes herself to be better. She is dedicated to her team and the sport."

Jankoska has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on an athletic scholarship at Michigan 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.

Jankoska joins recent Gatorade Michigan Girls Basketball Players of the Year Madison Ristovski (2011-12, University Liggett School), Jasmine Hines (2010-11, Central Lake High School), Madison Williams (2009-10, Detroit Country Day School), Destiny Williams (2008-09, Benton Harbor), Kellie Watson (2007-08, Ionia), and Keshia Hines (2006-07, Avondale) 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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