

Contact: Matt Schiffman (312-729-3672)

**BRAHAM AREA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MINNESOTA 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 Rebekah Dahlman of Braham Area High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Minnesota Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Dahlman is the first Gatorade Minnesota Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Braham Area 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 Dahlman as Minnesota'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, Dahlman 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 led the Bombers to a 30-0 record and a berth in the Class AA sectional state tournament, scheduled to begin March 13. The 5-foot-9 senior guard averaged 35.6 points, 10.1 rebounds, 6.5 assists and 6.1 steals through 30 games. The state's career scoring leader, Dahlman had recorded 4,963 career points entering the state tournament. A McDonald's High School All-American Game selection, she averaged 35.3 points, 11.6 rebounds, 6.0 steals and 5.1 assists per game as a junior and led Braham Area to the 2011 Class AA state title as a sophomore.

Dahlman has maintained a 3.92 GPA in the classroom. She has donated her time locally as a peer tutor, youth basketball instructor and caregiver to senior citizens in need.

"She is able to make those around her better," said Mike Norton, head coach of rival Ogilvie High. "She is a great player who plays at the highest level at all times. She sees the floor very well. Her defense has always been a huge part of her game, as it does set the tone for her offensive game. Her ability to see what is going on and make the right pass or play at the right time sets her apart from other girls."

Dahlman has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Vanderbilt 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 Dahlman joins Gatorade Minnesota Girls Basketball Players of the Year Rachel Banham (2010-11, Lakeville North High School), Sari Noga (2009-10, Parkers Prairie), Tayler Hill (2008-09 & 2007-08, Minneapolis South), and Janessa Wolff (2006-07, Park Rapids Area) 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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