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**INCARNATE WORD ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MISSOURI 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 Napheesa Collier of Incarnate Word Academy as its 2012-13 Gatorade Missouri Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Collier is the third Gatorade Missouri Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Incarnate Word Academy.

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 Collier as Missouri'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, Collier 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-1 sophomore guard has led the Red Knights to a 28-0 record and a berth in the Class 4A state semifinals against Dexter High, scheduled for March 14. At the time of her selection, Collier was averaging 24.4 points, 11.7 rebounds, 4.4 steals, 2.5 blocks and 2.0 assists per game. A two-time St. Louis Post-Dispatch Athlete of the Week, Collier has connected on 290-of-415 shots from the field (69.9 percent) and recorded 24 double-doubles in 28 games. A 2012 Missouri Basketball Coaches Association Class 5 First Team All-State selection as a freshman at Jefferson City High, she has scored 1,149 points in her prep basketball career.

Collier has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of Santa's Helpers and the Salvation Army.

"Napheesa's ability to take over a game and cause so many match-up concerns for other teams is significant," said Mike Slater, head coach of Nerinx Hall. "Her physical gifts that allow her to impact the game on both ends of the floor are amazing."

Collier will begin her junior 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.

Collier joins recent Gatorade Missouri Girls Basketball Players of the Year Maddie Stock (2011-12, St. Joseph's Academy), Shelby Winkelmann (2010-11, Hermann High School), Jazmin Hitchens (2009-10, Incarnate Word Academy), Katherine Harry (2008-09, Rock Bridge), Kathleen Scheer (2007-08, New Haven), and Tyra White (2006-07, Hickman Mills) 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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