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**CLOVIS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEW MEXICO 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 Danni Williams of Clovis High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade New Mexico Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Williams is the first Gatorade New Mexico Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Clovis 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 Williams as New Mexico'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, Williams 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-9 sophomore guard has led the Wildcats to a 28-2 record and a berth in the Class 5A state semifinals, scheduled for March 14. A returning First Team All-District selection, Williams averaged 20.0 points, 4.7 rebounds, 3.9 steals and 3.0 assists through 30 games. She shot 45 percent from the field, 36 percent from 3-point range and 75 percent from the free throw line entering the state quarterfinals.

Also a volleyball standout, Williams has maintained a 4.22 weighted GPA in the classroom and ranks No. 1 in her graduating class. A member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, National Junior Honor Society and her school's Spanish Club, she has volunteered locally on behalf of her church's youth group.

"Danni is a terrific guard," said Rich Harbin, head coach of Valley High. "She has great shooting range and can also go to the basket very well. Typically, Danni does a great job taking care of the ball and distributing it to her teammates."

Williams will begin her junior year 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.

Williams joins recent Gatorade New Mexico Girls Basketball Players of the Year Gina Okoye (2011-12, Eldorado High School), Justina Prairie Chief (2010-11, Gallup High School), Kya DeGarmo (2009-10, Eldorado), Megan Muniz (2008-09, Rio Rancho), Brenna Freeze (2007-08, La Cueva), and Madison Spence (2006-07, Mayfield) 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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