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**OSSINING HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEW YORK 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 Saniya Chong of Ossining High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade New York Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Chong is the first Gatorade New York Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Ossining 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 Chong as New York'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, Chong 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 senior guard has led the Pride to a 20-4 record and the semifinals of the Class AA state playoffs against Sachem East, scheduled for March 15. Through 24 games, Chong is averaging 35.0 points, 9.3 assists, 5.3 rebounds, 4.7 steals and 2.1 blocked shots. A First Team All-State selection and the two-time Journal-News Player of the Year, she has been chosen to play in the Women's Basketball Coaches Association All-America Game.

Chong has maintained a B average in the classroom. Also a volleyball standout, she has volunteered locally on behalf of youth basketball programs.

"She does everything well," said Mike Blanco, head coach at Scarsdale High. "She's super quick, she can play the point and she's a great scorer."

Chong has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Connecticut 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.

Chong joins recent Gatorade New York Girls Basketball Players of the Year Breanna Stewart (2011-12 & 2010-11, Cicero-North Syracuse High School), Bria Hartley (2009-10 & 2008-09, North Babylon), Samantha Prahalis (2007-08, Commack), and Lorin Dixon (2006-07, Christ the King) 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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