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**CENTURY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NORTH DAKOTA 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 Hannah Larson of Century High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade North Dakota Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Larson is the first Gatorade North Dakota Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Century 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 Larson as North Dakota'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, Larson 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 senior forward has led the Patriots to an 18-3 record and a berth in the Class A state tournament, scheduled to begin March 14. Larson averaged 16.4 points, 12.4 rebounds, 2.9 blocks, 2.7 assists and 2.4 steals per game through 21 games. A 2012 First Team All-State selection, she leads the Western Dakota Association in rebounding and blocked shots and ranks third in scoring.

Larson has maintained a 3.80 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society, she has volunteered locally on behalf of multiple community service initiatives in association with her church youth group and has worked a part-time job at an area sporting goods store.

"Hannah Larson is an exceptional talent," said Dan Pender, head coach at Dickinson High. "She can play the post and the step out and shoot the three. She is very versatile and competes hard all the time."

Larson remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Larson joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Girls Basketball Players of the Year Holly Johnson (2011-12, Minot High School), Caitlin Farroh (2010-11, Grand Forks Central High School), Meghan Roehrich (2009-10, Fargo South), Kelsey Sigl (2008-09, Bismarck), Alex Feeney (2007-08, Bismarck), and Jessica Kielpinski (2006-07, Mandan) 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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