

Contact: Matt Schiffman (312-729-3672)

**ANADARKO HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® OKLAHOMA 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 Lakota Beatty of Anadarko High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Beatty is the first Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Anadarko 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 Beatty as Oklahoma'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, Beatty 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-8 senior point guard averaged 20.1 points, 5.6 assists, 4.7 rebounds and 3.5 steals per game this past season, leading the Lady Warriors (27-2) to the Class 4A semifinals. A 2012 First Team All-State selection, Beatty shot 57 percent from inside the arc in 2012-13 and scored 22 points to lead Anadarko to a 51-45 win over Vinita in the Class 4A quarterfinals.

Beatty has maintained a 3.40 GPA in the classroom. The president of the Class of 2013 student council and a member of the Spanish Club, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and in association with her church youth group.

"Lakota Beatty's knowledge of the game is far beyond everyone else," said Lindsey Vanderburg, head coach at Noble High. "She makes the game look easy. Game after game, she just took over. She could score at ease and she also knew how to get her teammates the ball anywhere on the floor."

Beatty has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on an athletic scholarship at Oklahoma State 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.

Beatty joins recent Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Basketball Players of the Year Courtney Walker (2011-12, Edmond Santa Fe High School), Ashley Clark (2010-11, Midwest City High School), Richa Jackson (2009-10, Midwest City), Kevi Luper (2008-09, Adair), Alyssia Brewer (2007-08, Sapulpa), and Angel Goodrich (2006-07, Sequoyah) 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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