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**MITCHELL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® SOUTH DAKOTA GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 14, 2013) — In its 28<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Kerri Young of Mitchell High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade South Dakota Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Young is the third Gatorade South Dakota Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Mitchell 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 Young as South 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, Young 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 senior guard and forward averaged 17 points, 6.7 rebounds, 2.7 assists and 2.6 steals per game this past season, leading the Kernels (21-4) to the Class AA state final. A three-time First Team All-State selection, Young became Mitchell's career scoring leader among both boys and girls this season, finishing with 1,760 points as a four-year varsity player.

Young has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom and will graduate as the valedictorian of her class. A devoted parishioner in her church community and a student council representative, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and as a youth basketball and volleyball camp counselor.

"Kerri Young is the reason for so much of our success in recent years," said Mitchell High head coach Wes Morgan. "She makes the whole team better, not just with her scoring but also by getting the ball to her teammates and her commitment to defense."

Young has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on an athletic scholarship at South Dakota 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.

Young joins recent Gatorade South Dakota Girls Basketball Players of the Year Heidi Hoff (2011-12, Brandon Valley High School), Alex Kneeland (2010-11, Summit High School), Shaunteva Ashley (2009-10, Roosevelt), Sam Ostarello (2008-09, Stanley County), Alexis Yackley (2007-08, Sully Buttes), and Jill Young (2006-07, Mitchell Christian) 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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