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**SPRINGVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® UTAH 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 Malia Nawahine of Springville High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Utah Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Nawahine is the second Gatorade Utah Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Springville 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 Nawahine as Utah'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, Nawahine 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-10 senior guard/forward led the Red Devils to a 25-0 record and the Class 4A state championship this past season. Nawahine averaged 18.6 points, 7.3 rebounds, 2.6 assists and 2.3 steals per game. A Deseret News and Salt Lake Tribune First Team All-State selection, she was MVP of the Class 4A state tournament.

Nawahine has maintained a 3.60 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of food banks, a homeless shelter, the Special Olympics and youth sports programs.

"Nawahine has a unique ability to completely take over a game through working extremely hard," said Camie Oakey, head coach at Mountain View High. "She's relentless on the boards, cuts hard to the rim and knows how to use her body to finish against bigger opponents."

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

Nawahine joins recent Gatorade Utah Girls Basketball Players of the Year Brittney Martin (2011-12, Syracuse High School), Lexi Eaton (2010-11 & 2009-10, Springville High School), Haley Holmstead (2008-09, American Fork), Dani Peterson (2007-08, Skyline), and Tasha Dickey (2006-07, Brighton) 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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