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**FOREST PARK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® VIRGINIA 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 Breyana Mason of Forest Park High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Virginia Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Mason is the first Gatorade Virginia Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Forest Park 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 Mason as Virginia'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, Mason 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 averaged 26.9 points, 7.3 rebounds, 4.8 assists and 2.9 steals per game this past season, leading the Bruins (19-8) to the Group AAA Northwest Region semifinals. The Cardinal District Player of the Year, Mason is a three-time Northwest Region First Team selection and a four-time All-Cardinal District honoree. She concluded her prep basketball career with a Prince William County-record 1,976 points.

Mason has maintained a 3.96 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Prince William County Animal Shelter and a homeless shelter in addition to donating her time as a youth basketball coach.

"Breyana is the type of player you can put on the worst team and she would still find a way to win without having to score all the points," said Tamika Dudley, head coach of Woodbridge High. "She had a tremendous impact on her team and made people around her better."

Mason has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on an athletic scholarship at the University of Virginia beginning 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.

Mason joins recent Gatorade Virginia Girls Basketball Players of the Year Caroline Coyer (2011-12, Oakton High School), Elizabeth Williams (2010-11 & 2009-10, Princess Anne High School), Tierra Ruffin-Pratt (2008-09 & 2007-08, T.C. Williams), and Jasmine Thomas (2006-07, Oakton) 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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