

**Contact: Matt Schiffman (312-729-3672)**

**MOUNT RAINIER HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® WASHINGTON 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 Brittany McPhee of Mount Rainier High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Washington Girls Basketball Player of the Year. McPhee is the first Gatorade Washington Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Mount Rainier 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 McPhee as Washington'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, McPhee 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 state's returning Gatorade Girls Basketball Player of the Year, McPhee averaged 27.0 points, 12.3 rebounds, 3.3 blocks, 3.1 assists and 3.0 steals per game this past season, leading the Rams (27-2) to the Class 4A state semifinals. The 6-foot junior wing shot 56 percent from the field, 29 percent from 3-point range and 73 percent from the free throw line. In three Class 4A state tournament games, McPhee averaged 29.0 points, 15.7 rebounds and 4.7 blocks, leading the Rams to a third-place finish for the second consecutive season and earning postseason Most Valuable Player honors.

McPhee has maintained a 4.00 GPA in the classroom. In addition to serving as a student ambassador at the Inter-high leadership conference, she has donated her time as a youth basketball and soccer instructor.

"Brittany McPhee is the only player I have ever coached against where you truly do not know in what way she is going to hurt you," said Adam Ladage, head coach of rival Auburn High. "You take away the pass to her, and she beats you on the boards or in transition. You double her, and she finds the open player. You can't pick anything to take away from her. She beats you in so many ways. And she is so freaky athletic that it's hard to compete with her."

McPhee will begin her senior year of high school 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.

Two time winner McPhee joins Gatorade Washington Girls Basketball Players of the Year Erika Johnson (2010-11, Holy Names Academy), Mercedes Wetmore (2009-10, Auburn Riverside), Lindsey Moore (2008-09, Kentwood), Ashley Corral (2007-08, Prairie), and Angie Bjorklund (2006-07, University) 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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