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**MADISON ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ALABAMA BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 21, 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 Josh Langford of Madison Academy as its 2012-13 Gatorade Alabama Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Langford is the first Gatorade Alabama Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Madison Academy.

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 Langford as Alabama's best high school boys basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year award to be announced in March, Langford joins an elite alumni association of past state boys basketball award winners, including Dwight Howard (2003-04, SW Atlanta Christian Academy, Ga.), Chauncey Billups (1993-94 & 1994-95, George Washington HS, Colo.), Jason Kidd (1991-92, St. Joseph Notre Dame HS, Calif.), Paul Pierce (1994-95, Inglewood HS, Calif.) and Chris Bosh (2001-02, Lincoln HS, Texas).

The 6-foot-5, 195-pound freshman guard led the Mustangs (23-12) to the Class 3A state championship this past season. Langford averaged 23.9 points, 8.5 rebounds, 2.9 assists and 1.1 steals per game. The returning Class 3A Player of the Year as named by the Alabama Sports Writers Association, Langford shot 48 percent from the field, 36 percent from 3-point range and 80 percent from the free throw line. He amassed 21 points, 19 rebounds, six assists and two blocks in a 54-47 title-clinching win over Southside.

Langford has maintained a 3.17 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Junior Honor Society, he has volunteered locally on behalf of his church, as a youth basketball instructor and at Madison's Downtown Rescue Mission to feed the homeless.

"He is just a hard worker, and unfortunately for us he's a freshman," said Garth Garris, head coach of rival Elkmont High. "The reason I like Josh is because he is one of the best defenders in addition to being a scorer. He is a great defender and a great rebounder. He was tough to defend because of his driving ability. We'd stop the drive, and he hit six 3's. He shares the ball well, too."

Langford will begin his sophomore 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.

Langford joins recent Gatorade Alabama Boys Basketball Players of the Year Craig Sword (2011-12, Carver High School), Levi Randolph (2010-11, Bob Jones High School), KT Harrell (2009-10, Brewbaker Technology Magnet), Jordan Swing (2008-09, Vestavia Hills High School), JaMychal Green (2007-08, St. Jude Educational Institute), and Justin Knox (2006 - 07, Tuscaloosa Central) 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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