

**Contact: Lauren Rollins (312-729-3607)**

**HALL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® ARKANSAS BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 21, 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 Bobby Portis of Hall High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Arkansas Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Portis is the first Gatorade Arkansas Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Hall 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 Portis as Arkansas'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, Portis 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-9, 220-pound senior forward led the Warriors to a 26-5 record and the Class 6A state championship this past season. Portis averaged 20.4 points, 10.3 rebounds, 3.8 blocks and 2.1 assists per game. A four-time state champion, he was selected to play in the Jordan Brand Classic and the McDonald's All-American games and is rated the nation's No. 13 recruit in the Class of 2013 by ESPN.

Portis has maintained a 3.29 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of youth basketball programs.

"Portis has the total package," said Eric Burnett, head coach at Northside High. "He runs, jumps, shoots the three, posts up. You can't double team him because he's so smart and he's such a good passer."

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

Portis joins recent Gatorade Arkansas Boys Basketball Players of the Year Archie Goodwin (2011-12 & 2010-11, Sylvan Hills High School), Preston Purifoy (2009-10, Conway), Fred Gulley (2008-09 & 2007-08, Fayetteville High School), and James Anderson (2006 - 07, Junction City) 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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