

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

**LONG BEACH POLY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® CALIFORNIA 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 Roschon Prince of Long Beach Poly High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade California Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Prince is the second Gatorade California Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Long Beach Poly 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 Prince as California'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, Prince 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, 215-pound senior guard and forward averaged 20.3 points, 7.2 rebounds and 2.3 assists per game while shooting 60.1 percent from inside the arc this past season, leading the Jackrabbits (28-4) to the CIF Open Division state tournament. A two-time Moore League Player of the Year, Prince scored 25 points and pulled down 10 rebounds in an opening-round win over St. John's Bosco and became the first player in school history to score more than 2,000 points in a career.

Prince has maintained a 3.55 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of the Boys and Girls Club of America and as a youth tutor in addition to helping to distribute toys and gifts during the holidays for families in need.

"Roschon Prince was the player who really made us go," said Long Beach Poly head coach Sharrief Metoyer. "He does so many things on the court to help the team win. He can shoot, score and defend as well as any player I have seen."

Prince has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on an athletic scholarship at the University of Southern California 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.

Prince joins recent Gatorade California Boys Basketball Players of the Year Grant Jerrett (2011-12, Lutheran High School), Ryan Anderson (2010-11, Long Beach Poly), Allen Crabbe (2009-10, Price), Michael Snaer (2008-09, Rancho Verde High School) and Jrue Holiday (2007-08 & 2006-07, Campbell Hall) 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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