

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lauren Rollins (312-729-3607)

**DENVER EAST HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® COLORADO 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 Dominique Collier of Denver East High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Colorado Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Collier is the first Gatorade Colorado Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Denver East 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 Collier as Colorado'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, Collier 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-2, 155-pound junior guard averaged 20.1 points, 5.0 rebounds, 3.6 assists, 3.5 steals and 1.3 blocks this past season, leading the Angels (25-3) to the Class 5A state semifinals. A two-time returning Denver Post First Team All-Colorado selection, Collier shot 48 percent from the field, 35 percent from 3-point range and 79 percent from the free throw line. A member of the 2011 USA Basketball Men's U16 National Team and a 2012 USA Basketball Men's U17 World Championship Team finalist, he captured Most Valuable Player honors in the Rocky Mountain Fall Showcase Junior Game in October.

Collier has maintained a 3.55 weighted GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating his time to help the elderly in his community, he has volunteered locally on behalf of the Children's Hospital of Denver, the Special Olympics, a literacy-outreach program at Southmoor Elementary School and The Gathering Place for women, their children, and transgender individuals who are experiencing homelessness and poverty.

"Not only is he an excellent basketball player, but even a better young man," said Michael Rogers, head coach of rival Washington High. "For someone with his skills, ability and accolades, he is still a humble and respectful young man, and you can see that passed on to his teammates. He's a leader both on and off the court with his actions and the manner in which he carries himself. You cannot ask for a better young man to represent Colorado basketball, as he is a role model to current and future student-athletes."

Collier will begin his 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.

Collier joins recent Gatorade Colorado Boys Basketball Players of the Year Josh Scott (2011-12, Lewis-Palmer High School), Brett Olson (2010-11, Highlands Ranch High School), Bud Thomas (2009-10 & 2008-09, Regis Jesuit), Reggie Jackson (2007-08, Palmer High School), and Levi Knutson (2006 - 07, Arapahoe) 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.

###