

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

**GONZAGA COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 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 Kris Jenkins of Gonzaga College High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Jenkins is the sixth Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Gonzaga College 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 Jenkins as District of Columbia'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, Jenkins 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-6, 250-pound senior forward averaged 18.3 points, 10.3 rebounds, 3.7 assists, 3.3 steals and 1.4 blocks per game, leading the Eagles (27-5) to the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference quarterfinals and a third-place finish at the annual Alhambra Catholic Invitational Tournament. Jenkins averaged 19.8 points, 10.6 rebounds, 4.0 assists, 3.9 steals and 1.2 blocks as a junior. The two-time WCAC Player of the Year has participated in the NBPA Top 100 Camp each of the past two summers.

Jenkins has maintained a B average in the classroom. In addition to donating his time as a youth basketball instructor, he has volunteered locally on behalf of a homeless shelter and as a tutor for elementary school children.

"He is, simply put, a winner, making his teammates constantly better," said Neil Berkman, head coach of rival Bishop Ireton High. "He exemplifies good sportsmanship, works hard and seems to have very high character. Off the court, he carries himself with class, dignity and a matureness way beyond his years.

Jenkins has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Villanova University 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 Jenkins joins Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Basketball Players of the Year Nate Britt (2010-11, Gonzaga College High School), Tyler Thornton (2009-10, Gonzaga College), Ian Hummer (2008-09, Gonzaga College High School), Max Kenyi (2007-08, Gonzaga College High School), and Chris Wright (2006 - 07, St. John's College) 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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