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**SIMEON CAREER ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® ILLINOIS 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 Jabari Parker of Simeon Career Academy as its 2012-13 Gatorade Illinois Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Parker is the fourth Gatorade Illinois Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Simeon Career 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 Parker as Illinois'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, Parker 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 returning Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year, Parker led the Wolverines (30-3) to a fourth consecutive Class 4A state championship this past season. Also named the 2013 McDonald's High School All-American Morgan Wootten Player of the Year, the 6-foot-8, 220-pound senior wing averaged 18.4 points, 10.4 rebounds, 2.7 assists, 2.1 blocks and 1.9 steals as a senior. Parker collected 20 points and eight rebounds in the title-clinching win over Stevenson. USA Basketball's 2011 Male Athlete of the Year, he averaged 19.5 points, 8.9 rebounds, 4.9 assists, 3.3 blocks and 1.4 steals as a junior.

Parker has maintained a 3.71 weighted GPA in the classroom and serves as a local school council student representative. In addition to donating his time as a youth basketball instructor, he has volunteered on behalf of his church, the National Honor Society and Operation PUSH.

"Jabari Parker's calling card is his versatility and his uncommon ability to put winning in front of individual accolades," said Paul Biancardi, ESPN Recruiting National Director. "He possesses a high basketball IQ along with scoring skills to present matchup problems for opponents. A dedicated student and thoughtful to others, Parker is a special player, student and person."

Parker has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Duke 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 Parker joins Gatorade Illinois Boys Basketball Players of the Year Chasson Randle (2010-11, Rock Island High School), Rayvonte Rice (2009-10, Centennial), Matt Vogrich (2008-09, Lake Forest High School), Michael Dunigan (2007-08, Farragut Career Academy), and Derrick Rose (2006 - 07, Simeon) 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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