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**HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® INDIANA 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 Zak Irvin of Hamilton Southeastern High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Indiana Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Irvin is the second Gatorade Indiana Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Hamilton Southeastern 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 Irvin as Indiana'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, Irvin 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, 195-pound senior shooting guard averaged 24.6 points, nine rebounds, 3.3 assists and two steals this past season, leading the Royals (17-4) to the Class 4A sectional final. A First Team All-State selection, Irvin scored at least 20 points in 17 games this season and at least 30 in seven games.

Irvin has maintained a 3.38 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of D.A.R.E., the Ronald McDonald House Charities and as a youth camp counselor.

"Zak Irvin is the best player I've seen all year, maybe the best I've seen in many years," said Doug Mitchell, head coach at North Central High. "He can get a shot any time he wants, he is in superb condition and he loves to play defense."

Irvin has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on an athletic scholarship at the University of Michigan 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.

Irvin joins recent Gatorade Indiana Boys Basketball Players of the Year Gary Harris (2011-12, Hamilton Southeastern High School), Cody Zeller (2010-11, Washington High School), Travis Carroll (2009-10, Danville Community), Jordan Hulls (2008-09, Bloomington High School South), Tyler Zeller (2007-08, Washington High School), and Eric Gordon (2006 - 07, North Central) 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.

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