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**OTTAWA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® KANSAS 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 Semi Ojeleye of Ottawa High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Kansas Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Ojeleye is the first Gatorade Kansas Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Ottawa 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 Ojeleye as Kansas'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, Ojeleye 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, 220-pound senior wing led the Cyclones to a 25-0 record and the Class 4A state championship this past season. Ojeleye averaged 38.1 points, 8.5 rebounds, 1.8 steals and 1.4 assists per game this season. A two-time returning Class 6A First Team All-State selection as named by the Kansas Basketball Coaches Association, he shot 52 percent from the field, 38 percent from 3-point range and 82 percent from the free throw line. Ojeleye amassed 27 points and 15 rebounds in a 54-45 title-clinching victory against Highland Park, scoring a record 104 points in four Class 4A state tournament games. His 952 points as a senior and 2,763 career points also set state records.

Ojeleye has maintained a 4.00 GPA in the classroom and ranks No. 1 in his graduating class. A member of the National Honor Society, he has volunteered locally on behalf of his church, a food drive, the Ottawa Library and the Hope House emergency relief organization.

"He is an unbelievable talent and from what I hear his work ethic is even better," said Kyle Deterding, head coach of rival Eudora High. "On the court, teams made their entire game plan around him, and he still found a way to get it done. On the court, it would have been easy to get frustrated with what teams were throwing at him, but he always kept his composure."

Ojeleye 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.

Ojeleye joins recent Gatorade Kansas Boys Basketball Players of the Year Perry Ellis (2011-12, 2010-11, 2009-10 & 2008-09, Wichita Heights High School), Travis Releford (2007-08, Bishop Miege High School), and Tyrel Reed (2006 - 07, Burlington) 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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