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**MADISON CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® KENTUCKY 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 Dominique Hawkins of Madison Central High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Kentucky Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Hawkins is the first Gatorade Kentucky Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Madison Central 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 Hawkins as Kentucky'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, Hawkins 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-1, 185-pound senior point guard led the Indians (32-5) to the state championship this past season. Hawkins averaged 20.4 points, 5.6 rebounds, 2.9 assists and 1.8 steals per game. A returning First Team All-State selection as named by The Courier-Journal, Hawkins shot 50 percent from the field, 35 percent from 3-point range and 75 percent from the free throw line. He amassed 21 points and 10 rebounds in the 65-64 title-clinching victory against Ballard, capturing state tournament MVP honors.

Hawkins has maintained a B average in the classroom. In addition to donating his time as a youth basketball instructor, he has volunteered extensively with the special needs students at his school.

"I have coached against Dominique for the last five years, said Scott Chalk, head coach of rival Dunbar High. "He is the finest player I have coached against—not only as far as talent and being a clutch performer, but as a young man who is the epitome of sportsmanship. I have yet to find anyone that has met him that has a negative thing to say about him. He always plays hard and never allows his temper to get the best of him and is very complementary of his opponent after the game."

Hawkins remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Hawkins joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Boys Basketball Players of the Year Nathan Dieudonne (2011-12, Trinity High School), Timmy Knipp (2010-11, Elliott County High School), Elisha Justice (2009-10, Shelby Valley), Jon Hood (2008-09, Madisonville North Hopkins High School), Darius Miller (2007-08, Mason County High School), and Steffphon Pettigrew (2006 - 07, Elizabethtown) 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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