

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

**NORTH POINT HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MARYLAND 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 Marquis Wright of North Point High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Maryland Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Wright is the first Gatorade Maryland Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from North Point 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 Wright as Maryland'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, Wright 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, 180-pound senior point guard averaged 16.6 points, 6.1 assists, 4.7 rebounds and 3.9 steals this past season, leading the Eagles (24-3) to the Class 4A semifinals. A two-time Southern Maryland Athletic Conference MVP, Wright concluded his high school career with 1,084 points, 560 assists, 325 rebounds and 290 steals as a four-year varsity player.

Wright has maintained a 3.08 GPA in the classroom. A devoted parishioner in his church community, he has volunteered locally as a youth basketball camp counselor.

"Marquis Wright is a very cerebral point guard who has all the tools to lead a college team," said Dale Lamberth, head coach at Thomas Stone High. "Having competed against his team over the past four years, I have seen tremendous growth in his leadership and skills on the court."

Wright has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on an athletic scholarship at Loyola 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.

Wright joins recent Gatorade Maryland Boys Basketball Players of the Year Justin Anderson (2011-12, Montrose Christian School), Marcus Thornton (2010-11, Bishop McNamara High School), Josh Hairston (2009-10, Montrose Christian School), Christian Webster (2008-09, Landon School), Sean Mosley (2007-08, St. Frances Academy), and Malcolm Delaney (2006 - 07, Towson Catholic) 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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