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**APPLE VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MINNESOTA 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 Tyus Jones of Apple Valley High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Minnesota Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Jones is the second Gatorade Minnesota Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Apple Valley 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 Jones as Minnesota'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, Jones 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-2, 186-pound junior point guard has led the Eagles to a 28-1 record and a berth in the Class 4A state tournament, scheduled to begin March 20. Jones averaged 20.9 points, 7.6 assists, 3.9 rebounds and 3.1 steals through 29 games. The state's returning Gatorade Boys Basketball Player of the Year, Jones shot 62 percent from the field, 42 percent from 3-point range and 84 percent from the free throw line. Coming off the bench for USA Basketball's U17 National Team, Jones contributed 8.5 points, 5.4 assists and 2.9 rebounds per game during Team USA's gold medal run at this past summer's World Championships. He averaged 28.1 points, 8.0 assists, 4.8 rebounds and 3.4 steals for Apple Valley as a sophomore.

Jones has maintained a 3.17 GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating his time as a youth basketball instructor, he has volunteered locally on behalf of Feed My Starving Children and as a motivational speaker for elementary school children.

"He makes everybody around him better," said Mike Walker, an assistant coach for Jones' club team, the Howard Pulley Panthers. "He puts players in position to be successful. He always looks to make the correct basketball play, and he does that every time—no matter what the situation. He's a pure point guard. His mentality is always way above guys that were older. The way he approaches the game and communicates with teammates, he is another coach on the floor. He knows what plays to run and knows who's hot."

Jones will begin his senior year of high school 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 Jones joins Gatorade Minnesota Boys Basketball Players of the Year Joe Coleman (2010-11, Hopkins High School), Kevin Noreen (2009-10, Minnesota Transitions Charter School), Mike Bruesewitz (2008-09, Henry Sibley High School), Jordan Taylor (2007-08, Benilde-St. Margaret's School), and Cole Aldrich (2006 - 07, Jefferson) 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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