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**ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® NEW JERSEY 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 Karl Towns Jr. of St. Joseph High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade New Jersey Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Towns Jr. is the second Gatorade New Jersey Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Joseph 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 Towns Jr. as New Jersey'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, Towns Jr. 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 7-foot-1, 245-pound junior center led the Falcons to a 27-5 record and the state Tournament of Champions final this past season. Towns averaged 21.3 points, 14.3 rebounds and 5.6 blocks per game. A First Team All-State selection, he is a member of the Dominican Republic National Team and is rated the nation's No. 5 recruit in the Class of 2014 by ESPN.

Towns has maintained a 4.07 GPA in the classroom. He has served in his school's student government and has volunteered locally on behalf of youth basketball programs.

"He's the most dominant player I've seen come through Middlesex County in my 15 years of coaching," said Edwin Santana, head coach at Perth Amboy High. "He can consistently shoot threes from NBA range, he scores off the dribble and he's an enforcer in the paint."

Towns 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.

Towns Jr. joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Boys Basketball Players of the Year Tyler Ennis (2011-12, St. Benedict's Prep.), Michael Gilchrist (2010-11 & 2008-09, St. Patrick High School), Kyrie Irving (2009-10, St. Patrick), Samardo Samuels (2007-08, St. Benedict's Prep), and Corey Fisher (2006 - 07, St. Patrick) 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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