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**WESTERVILLE NORTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® OHIO BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 21, 2013) — In its 28th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Jack Gibbs of Westerville North High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Ohio Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Gibbs is the first Gatorade Ohio Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Westerville North 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 Gibbs as Ohio'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, Gibbs 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 5-foot-11, 185-pound senior point guard averaged 16.8 points, 4.8 steals, 4.1 assists and 3.2 rebounds while shooting at 83 percent from the free throw line this past season, leading the Warriors (21-2) to the Division I district semifinals. A two-time First Team All-Conference selection, Gibbs scored a season-high 26 points in a 70-69 win over Villa Angela-St. Joseph, including hitting a buzzer-beating three-pointer to win the game.

Gibbs has maintained a 3.96 GPA in the classroom. A member of the superintendent's student advisory council, he has volunteered locally on behalf of his church youth group and as a youth basketball instructor.

"Jack Gibbs is a player who impacts the game so much on offense and defense and he makes his teammates so much better," said Westerville North High head coach Kevin Thuman. "He is a great competitor and he would probably put up even bigger numbers if it weren't for his unselfish style of play."

Gibbs has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on an athletic scholarship at Davidson College 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.

Gibbs joins recent Gatorade Ohio Boys Basketball Players of the Year Adolphus Washington (2011-12, Taft High School), Travis Trice (2010-11, Wayne High School), Jordan Sibert (2009-10, Princeton), C.J. McCollum (2008-09, GlenOak High School), B.J. Mullens (2007-08, Canal Winchester High School), and Jon Diebler (2006 - 07, Upper Sandusky) 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.

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