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**ST. JOSEPH'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® PENNSYLVANIA 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 Steve Vasturia of St. Joseph's Preparatory School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Vasturia is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Joseph's Preparatory 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 Vasturia as Pennsylvania'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, Vasturia 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-5, 190-pound senior guard led the Hawks to a 24-6 record and the semifinals of the Class AAAA tournament this past season. Vasturia averaged 20.5 points, 7.1 rebounds and 2.5 assists per game. A First Team All-State selection, he is a two-time Philadelphia Catholic League MVP.

Vasturia has maintained a 3.49 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of youth basketball programs.

"Vasturia makes everyone better," said Joe Dempsey, head coach at rival La Salle College High. "He gets double-teamed a lot and always makes the right pass. Defensively, he guards the best player on the other team."

Vasturia has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Notre Dame 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.

Vasturia joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Basketball Players of the Year Amile Jefferson (2011-12 & 2010-11, Friends' Central School), Tony Chennault (2009-10, Neumann-Goretti), Maalik Wayns (2008-09, Roman Catholic High School), Brian Walsh (2007-08, Moon Area High School), and Jeff Jones (2006 - 07, Monsignor Bonner) 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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