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**SPARKMAN HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ALABAMA GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 13, 2014) — In its 29th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Alexis Jennings of Sparkman High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Alabama Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Jennings is the second Gatorade Alabama Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Sparkman 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 Jennings as Alabama's best high school girls basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Basketball Player of the Year award announced in March, Jennings joins an elite alumni association of past state girls basketball award-winners, including Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Diana Taurasi (1998-99 & 1999-00, Don Antonio Lugo HS, Calif.), Maya Moore (2005-06 Collins Hill HS, Ga.), Rashanda McCants (2004-05, Asheville HS, N.C.), Shyra Ely (1999-00, Ben Davis HS, Ind.) and Lisa Leslie (1988-89, Morningside HS, Calif.)

The 6-foot-3 senior forward averaged 22.5 points, 10.5 rebounds, 3.9 blocks and 3.2 steals while shooting at 81 percent from the free throw line, leading the Senators (34-3) to the Class 6A state title game. A three-time First Team All-State selection and a 2014 WBCA All-American, she was named MVP of the BallN' Powher Prep Invitational in December, averaging 25.6 points per game in the tournament.

Jennings has maintained a 3.29 GPA in the classroom. A member of her school's Environmental Science Club and the 4-H Youth Development Organization, she has volunteered locally as an usher at her church and as a tutor and mentor for students with special needs.

"Alexis Jennings is without a doubt the best player that we have played against this year and the best that I have seen in many years in North Alabama," said Stephen Clemons, head coach at Buckhorn High. "She has also displayed incredible character and sportsmanship every time we played against her team."

Jennings has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Kentucky 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.

Jennings joins recent Gatorade Alabama Girls Basketball Players of the Year Marqu'es Webb (2012-13, Hoover High School), Jasmine Jones (2011-12, Bob Jones High School), Hayden Hamby (2010-11, West Morgan High School), Kaneisha Horn (2009-10, Ramsay), Adrienne Webb (2008-09, Sparkman), Courtney Jones (2007-08, Midfield), and Alli Smalley (2006-07, Arab) 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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