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**SCOTT CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MISSISSIPPI 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 Victoria Vivians of Scott Central High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Mississippi Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Vivians is the first Gatorade Mississippi Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Scott Central 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 Vivians as Mississippi'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, Vivians 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 senior wing led the Lady Rebels to a 27-6 record entering the Class 2A state final, scheduled for March 13. Vivians averaged 46.6 points, 13.4 rebounds, 4.8 steals and 1.8 assists through 33 games. A four-time First Team All-State selection and also the 2011-12 Gatorade Mississippi Girls Basketball Player of the Year as a sophomore, she became the state's career scoring leader this season with 5,659 points heading into the title game. She is also the Mississippi record-holder for single-season scoring with 1,531 points and counting.

Vivians has maintained a 91.2 average in the classroom. An active member of her church choir and youth group, she has served as a student government representative at her school and has volunteered as a peer leader.

"Victoria Vivians is the real deal on the court," said Mat Lum, head coach at West Lauderdale High. "She plays the game the way it is supposed to be played—with integrity and sportsmanship. She handles herself extremely well. She doesn't showboat and she always respects her opponents."

Vivians has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Mississippi State University 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 Vivians joins recent Gatorade Mississippi Girls Basketball Players of the Year Christa Reed (2012-13, Bay High School), Krista Donald (2010-11, Lake High School), Valencia McFarland (2009-10 & 2008-09, Raymond), and April Sykes (2007-08 & 2006-07, East Oktibbeha County) 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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