

Contact: Lauren Rollins (312-729-3607)

**LONDONDERRY HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEW HAMPSHIRE 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 Aliza Simpson of Londonderry High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Simpson is the third Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Londonderry 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 Simpson as New Hampshire'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, Simpson 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 5-foot-9 senior point guard led the Lancers to a 19-3 record and a berth in the Division I state semifinals against Pinkerton Academy, scheduled for March 12. At the time of her selection, Simpson was averaging 18.2 points, 8.4 assists, 6.6 rebounds and 5.6 steals per game despite missing eight contests with a hairline fracture above her right kneecap. A two-time First Team All-State honoree, she had recorded two quadruple-doubles and one triple-double through 22 games and has twice earned Lawrence Eagle Tribune Super-Team recognition.

Simpson has maintained a 3.16 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of underprivileged and refugee families. She has also donated her time at an elderly care facility and as a youth basketball coach.

"Aliza Simpson controls every game and takes over games when needed," said Mike Wenners, head coach of Manchester Central High. "She fills a stat sheet like no other player in Division I. She plays with as much passion on the defensive end as she does on the offensive end."

Simpson has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of New Hampshire 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.

Simpson joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Basketball Players of the Year Jamie Sherburne (2012-13, Bishop Guertin High School), Kirsten O'Neil (2011-12, Winnacunnet High School), Danielle Walczak (2010-11, Oyster River High School), Tiffany Ruffin (2009-10, 2008-09 & 2007-08, Winnacunnet), and Stefanie Murphy (2006-07, Londonderry) 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.

###