

Contact: Lauren Rollins (312-729-3607)

**SHANLEY HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NORTH DAKOTA 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 Sarah Jacobson of Shanley High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade North Dakota Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Jacobson is the first Gatorade North Dakota Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Shanley 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 Jacobson as North Dakota'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, Jacobson 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-8 sophomore point guard led the Deacons to an 18-2 record and a berth in the Class A state tournament, scheduled to begin March 13. Jacobson averaged 21.7 points, 6.8 assists, 2.9 blocks, 4.9 rebounds and 2.9 steals per game while shooting at 40 percent from beyond the 3-point arc. A 2013 First Team All-State selection, she leads the Eastern Dakota Conference in scoring, assists and 3-point field goal percentage.

Jacobson has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the YMCA, as a church altar server and as a tutor for children with dyslexia.

"Sarah Jacobson is the best player in the Eastern Dakota Conference and arguably the best in the state," said Kent Ripplinger, head coach at Red River High. "She can do everything on the basketball court. She is also a tremendously hard worker and a very respectful person as well."

Jacobson will begin her junior year of high school 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.

Jacobson joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Girls Basketball Players of the Year Hannah Larson (2012-13, Century High School), Holly Johnson (2011-12, Minot High School), Caitlin Farroh (2010-11, Grand Forks Central High School), Meghan Roehrich (2009-10, Fargo South), Kelsey Sigl (2008-09, Bismarck), Alex Feeney (2007-08, Bismarck), and Jessica Kielpinski (2006-07, Mandan) 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.

###