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**PRINCETON HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® OHIO 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 Kelsey Mitchell of Princeton High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Ohio Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Mitchell is the first Gatorade Ohio Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Princeton 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 Mitchell as Ohio'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, Mitchell 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 senior point guard led the Vikings to a 26-2 record and a berth in the Division I semifinals, scheduled for March 14. Mitchell, ranked as the nation's No. 4 recruit in the Class of 2014 by BlueStar Basketball, averaged 25.8 points, 4.4 rebounds, 4.1 steals and four assists through 28 games. A WBCA All-American and also selected to play in this spring's McDonald's High School All-American Game, she set a school single-game record with 50 points in the Division I regional semifinal win over Kettering Fairmont.

Mitchell has maintained a 3.67 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered as a peer tutor, a mentor for students with special needs and as a youth basketball coach.

"Kelsey Mitchell is everything that is advertised and possesses a basketball skill set that has rarely been seen," said Rob Matula, head coach at Mason High. "In my 26 years of coaching basketball, she is the best player I have ever coached against. But what makes her more impressive is her demeanor on the court. With so many of our top athletes needing constant supervision so that they act properly or respectfully, Mitchell is a breath of fresh air."

Mitchell has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at The Ohio 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.

Mitchell joins recent Gatorade Ohio Girls Basketball Players of the Year Bianca Quisenberry (2012-13, Tecumseh High School), Malina Howard (2011-12, Twinsburg High School), Ally Malott (2010-11, Madison High School), Amy Scullion (2009-10, Salem), Mikaela Ruef (2008-09, Beaver Creek), Shay Selby (2007-08, Regina), and Jantel Lavender (2006 - 07, Cleveland Central Catholic) 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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