

Contact: Lauren Rollins (312-729-3607)

**FOX CHAPEL AREA HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® PENNSYLVANIA 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 Erin Mathias of Fox Chapel Area High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Mathias is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Fox Chapel Area 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 Mathias as Pennsylvania'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, Mathias 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-4 senior forward led the Foxes to a 20-6 record and the second round of the Class AAAA playoffs this past season. Mathias averaged 16.6 points, 12.8 rebounds, and 4.8 blocked shots per game. A First Team All-State selection, she was an Honorable Mention All-American as named by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association. Mathias was named the Class AAAA Player of the Year by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette as a junior.

Mathias has maintained a 3.80 GPA in the classroom. A member of Students Against Destructive Decisions, she has volunteered locally by assisting elementary school students with their homework and helping to paint and reconstruct the home of a neighbor in need.

"Her ability to step out and hit an outside shot or post someone up made her almost impossible to defend," said Eric Smith, head coach at McKeesport High. "Plus, she was relentless on the offensive boards. If you double-teamed her or took away part of her offensive game, she would beat you by crashing the boards and getting put-backs and free throws."

Mathias has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Duke 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.

Mathias joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Basketball Players of the Year Shatori Walker-Kimbrough (2012-13, Hopewell High School), Sierra Moore (2011-12, Delone Catholic High School), Madison Cable (2010-11, Mt. Lebanon High School), Kayla McBride (2009-10, Villa Maria Academy), Stephanie Holzer (2008-09, Cardinal O'Hara), Markel Walker (2007-08, Schenley), and Jence Rhoads (2006-07, Slippery Rock Area) 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.

###