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**MONROE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® ALASKA BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 21, 2014) — In its 29<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Scooter Bynum of Monroe Catholic High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Alaska Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Bynum is the first Gatorade Alaska Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Monroe Catholic 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 Bynum as Alaska's best high school boys basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year award to be announced in March, Bynum joins an elite alumni association of past state boys basketball award winners, including Dwight Howard (2003-04, SW Atlanta Christian Academy, Ga.), Chauncey Billups (1993-94 & 1994-95, George Washington HS, Colo.), Jason Kidd (1991-92, St. Joseph Notre Dame HS, Calif.), Paul Pierce (1994-95, Inglewood HS, Calif.) and Chris Bosh (2001-02, Lincoln HS, Texas).

The 6-foot-1, 183-pound senior guard has led the Rams to a 25-0 record and a berth in the Class 3A state quarterfinals against Nome, scheduled for March 20. Bynum is averaging 14.3 points, 6.4 rebounds, 2.4 assists and 2.0 steals per game entering the state playoffs. The Class 3A Player of the Year, he is a two-time First Team All-State selection.

Bynum has maintained a 3.18 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society and a tutor in his school, he has assisted in a first-grade classroom and has volunteered preparing meals for the needy.

"He's a phenomenal athlete and a really tough point guard," said Ryan Engebretsen, head coach at Wasilla High. "He makes shots, handles the ball and he's the best defensive player in the state. He can step into any role and he has all the intangibles."

Bynum has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Arizona Western College 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.

Bynum joins recent Gatorade Alaska Boys Basketball Players of the Year Adam Klie (2012-13, Service High School), Connor Devine (2011-12, Wasilla High School), Devon Bookert (2010-11, West Anchorage High School), Kyle Fossman (2009-10, Haines), Ryan Hanley (2008-09, Dimond High School), Kevin Winford (2007-08, Bartlett High School), and Jesse Bean (2006-07, Wasilla) 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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