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**MOSS POINT HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MISSISSIPPI BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 21, 2013) — In its 28th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Devin Booker of Moss Point High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Mississippi Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Booker is the second Gatorade Mississippi Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Moss Point 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 Booker as Mississippi'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, Booker 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-5, 191-pound junior guard averaged 29.7 points, eight rebounds and four assists per game this past season for the Tigers (12-16). The Sun Herald Player of the Year, Booker is also a member of the Clarion-Ledger Dandy Dozen. He is rated the nation's No. 19 recruit in the Class of 2014 by ESPN.

Booker has maintained a 3.81 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of a literacy-outreach initiative.

"He has no weakness in his game," said Anthony Combs, head coach at Pascagoula High. "He has tremendous range on his jumper, he can take it strong to the hole and he can finish. A lot of people overlook his passing, but he makes some great passes in the open court and through double teams."

Booker will begin his senior 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.

Booker joins recent Gatorade Mississippi Boys Basketball Players of the Year Devonta Pollard (2011-12, Kemper County High School), Rodney Hood (2010-11, Meridian High School), Jake Stringer (2009-10, Forest Hill), Andre Stringer (2008-09, Forest Hill High School), Scottie Haralson (2007-08, Provine High School), and Ravern Johnson (2006 - 07, Coahoma County) 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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