

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Lauren Rollins (312-729-3607)**

**WHITE STATION HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® TENNESSEE 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 Leron Black of White Station High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Tennessee Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Black is the fourth Gatorade Tennessee Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from White Station 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 Black as Tennessee'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, Black 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-7, 225-pound senior forward averaged 20.2 points, 12.9 rebounds, 1.8 blocks and 1.0 steals per game this past season, leading the Spartans (30-3) to the Class AAA sectional tournament final. The 2014 Class AAA Mr. Basketball winner, Black is a three-time All-Region 8-AAA First Team selection and a two-time Memphis Commercial Appeal All-Metro First Team honoree. He concluded his prep basketball career with 1,724 points.

Black has maintained an A-minus average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally with Habitat for Humanity, as a youth basketball coach and has donated his time to multiple community service projects in association with his church youth group.

"Leron is very aggressive on the offensive boards, can shoot it great from mid-range, can handle it well and create his own shot," said William Buford, head coach of Houston High. "He won't force anything, plus he is very unselfish."

Black has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on an athletic scholarship at the University of Illinois 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.

Black joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Boys Basketball Players of the Year Austin Nichols (2012-13, Briarcrest Christian High School), Alex Poythress (2011-12, Northeast High School), Adonis Thomas (2010-11, Melrose High School), Joe Jackson (2009-10, White Station), John Jenkins (2008-09, Station Camp High School), Leslie McDonald (2007-08, Briarcrest Christian School), and Maurice Miller (2006-07, Raleigh-Egypt) 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).

###