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**DALLAS COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ALABAMA BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 21, 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 William Lee of Dallas County High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Alabama Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Lee is the first Gatorade Alabama Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Dallas County 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 Lee as Alabama'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, Lee 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-9, 210-pound senior power forward led the Hornets to a 30-3 record and the Class 4A state championship this past season. The returning Class 4A Player of the Year as named by the Alabama Sports Writers Association, Lee averaged 22.2 points, 12.7 rebounds, 9.2 blocks, 3.9 assists and 3.4 steals per game. He collected 22 points, 13 boards and seven blocks in the 51-48, overtime victory against J.O. Johnson in the title game, capturing Class 4A state tournament Most Valuable Player honors.

Lee has maintained a 3.50 GPA in the classroom. A member of his school's drama club and the student manager for Dallas County's volleyball team, he has volunteered locally as a youth basketball instructor and on behalf of the Special Olympics.

"He's very athletic and obviously very dominating around the rim," said Will Glaze, head coach of rival Tallassee High. "He uses his body well to take shots in traffic and when double-teamed recognizes it and finds his teammates. He's a very smart player."

Lee has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Alabama at Birmingham 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.

Lee joins recent Gatorade Alabama Boys Basketball Players of the Year Josh Langford (2012-13, Madison Academy), Craig Sword (2011-12, Carver High School), Levi Randolph (2010-11, Bob Jones High School), KT Harrell (2009-10, Brewbaker Technology Magnet), Jordan Swing (2008-09, Vestavia Hills High School), JaMychal Green (2007-08, St. Jude Educational Institute), and Justin Knox (2006-07, Tuscaloosa Central) 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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