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**PINNACLE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ARIZONA 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 Dorian Pickens of Pinnacle High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Arizona Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Pickens is the first Gatorade Arizona Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Pinnacle 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 Pickens as Arizona'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, Pickens 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, 190-pound senior guard averaged 25.2 points, 6.5 rebounds, 2.6 steals and 1.9 assists per game while shooting 62 percent from inside the arc this past season, leading the Pioneers (23-10) to the Division I state final. A two-time First Team All-State selection, Pickens scored a season-high 41 points in Pinnacle's 71-70, overtime loss to Corona del Sol in the state final.

Pickens has maintained a 4.19 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of the Boys & Girls Club of America, an area homeless shelter and as a youth camp counselor. He has also donated his time to a charity fundraiser walk to benefit the Epilepsy Foundation of Arizona.

"Dorian Pickens is a great competitor with amazing offensive skills," said Daniel Peterson, head coach at Chaparral High. "He is an incredible scorer. He was very classy his entire career and willed his team back to the state championship game."

Pickens has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on an athletic scholarship at Stanford 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.

Pickens joins recent Gatorade Arizona Boys Basketball Players of the Year Casey Benson (2012-13, Corona del Sol High School), Tim Derksen (2011-12, Amphitheater High School), Jordan Baker (2010-11, Tempe High School), Corey Hawkins (2009-10 & 2008-09, Estrella Foothills), Taylor Rohde (2007-08, Pinnacle High School), and Jerryd Bayless (2006-07, St. Mary's) 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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