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**NORTH LITTLE ROCK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ARKANSAS 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 Kevaughn Allen of North Little Rock High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Arkansas Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Allen is the first Gatorade Arkansas Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from North Little Rock 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 Allen as Arkansas'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, Allen 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-3, 170-pound junior guard led the Charging Wildcats to a 26-2 record and the Class 7A state championship this past season. Allen averaged 21.3 points, 6.4 rebounds, 4.2 assists and 3.7 steals per game. An All-Arkansas First Team selection and the state's Sophomore of the Year in 2013, he is rated as the nation's No. 27 recruit in the Class of 2015 by ESPN.

Allen has maintained a 3.19 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of youth basketball teams and the Shop With a Cop program, which provides Christmas gifts for families in need.

"Kevaughn Allen is on another level," said Searcy High coach Jimmy Summers. "He's got great athleticism, and he's really special in how smooth he plays. The game slows down for him and he makes all the right decisions."

Allen 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.

Allen joins recent Gatorade Arkansas Boys Basketball Players of the Year Bobby Portis (2012-13, Hall High School), Archie Goodwin (2011-12 & 2010-11, Sylvan Hills High School), Preston Purifoy (2009-10, Conway), Fred Gulley (2008-09 & 2007-08, Fayetteville High School), and James Anderson (2006-07, Junction City) 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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