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**MATER DEI HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® CALIFORNIA 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 Stanley Johnson of Mater Dei High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade California Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Johnson is the second Gatorade California Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Mater Dei 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 Johnson as California'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, Johnson 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 has led the Monarchs to a 33-0 record and a berth in the CIF Open Division semifinals, scheduled for March 22. Johnson averaged 25.1 points, 8.1 rebounds, 3.3 assists and 2.5 steals while shooting 57 percent from inside the arc through 33 games. A 2014 McDonald's All-American Game selection and a 2014 Jordan Brand Classic game invitee, Johnson is ranked as the nation's No. 3 recruit in the class of 2014 by Rivals and No. 7 by ESPN.

Johnson has maintained a B average in the classroom. A devoted parishioner in his church community, he has volunteered locally on behalf of an area nursing home and homeless shelter and as a guest speaker for at-risk inner city youths.

"Stanley Johnson's desire to succeed is unmatched at this level," said Mater Dei head coach Gary McKnight. "His efforts within the community, his devotion to his school and teammates and his growth academically, athletically and spiritually personify what it truly means to be a student-athlete."

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

Johnson joins recent Gatorade California Boys Basketball Players of the Year Roschon Prince (2012-13, Long Beach Poly High School), Grant Jerrett (2011-12, Lutheran High School), Ryan Anderson (2010-11, Long Beach Poly), Allen Crabbe (2009-10, Price), Michael Snaer (2008-09, Rancho Verde High School), and Irue Holiday (2007-08 & 2006-07, Campbell Hall) 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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