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**DENVER EAST HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® COLORADO 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 Dominique Collier of Denver East High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Colorado Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Collier is the first Gatorade Colorado Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Denver East 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 Collier as Colorado'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, Collier 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 state's returning Gatorade Boys Basketball Player of the Year, Collier led the Angels to a 24-4 record and a second consecutive Class 5A state championship this past season. Also the 2013 Mr. Colorado Basketball selection as named by The Denver Post, the 6-foot-2, 166-pound senior guard averaged 23.4 points, 4.3 rebounds, 3.7 assists and 3.5 steals per game. He collected 18 points, three assists, three rebounds and two steals in a 70-49 victory against Fossil Ridge in the title game.

Collier has maintained a weighted GPA of 3.36 in the classroom. In addition to donating his time to the elderly in his community and as a youth basketball instructor, he has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America and a literacy-outreach program.

"Dominique is a leader with an exceptional basketball IQ and a basketball skill set that is second to none," said Denver East head coach Rudy Carey. "He is representative of the true student-athletes. He challenges himself in the classroom and on the court to learn, grow and be a leader at all times. Dominique has a competitive spirit that keeps a team in every game. He has sacrificed his stats for the sake of the team. He is simply the best player in Colorado on both ends of the floor."

Collier has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Colorado 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.

Two time winner Collier joins Gatorade Colorado Boys Basketball Players of the Year Josh Scott (2011-12, Lewis-Palmer High School), Brett Olson (2010-11, Highlands Ranch High School), Bud Thomas (2009-10 & 2008-09, Regis Jesuit), Reggie Jackson (2007-08, Palmer High School), and Levi Knutson (2006-07, Arapahoe) 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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