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**SALESIANUM SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® DELAWARE 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 Brian O'Neill of Salesianum School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Delaware Boys Basketball Player of the Year. O'Neill is the first Gatorade Delaware Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Salesianum 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 O'Neill as Delaware'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, O'Neill 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-7, 250-pound senior guard led the Sallies to a 23-2 record and the Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association state championship this past season. O'Neill averaged 13.5 points, 8.2 rebounds and three blocks while recording 12 double-doubles. A 2014 First Team All-State selection, O'Neill scored 15 points with nine rebounds in a 50-45 win over St. Georges in the state final, giving Salesianum's boys program its first basketball championship in the 47-year history of the DIAA.

O'Neill has maintained a 3.34 GPA in the classroom. A devoted parishioner in his church community, he has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and as a youth basketball coach and referee.

"Brian O'Neill was without a doubt the best big man the state of Delaware has seen in a long time," said Dick Rago, head coach at St. Elizabeth's High. "Offensively and defensively, he excelled and he would step up whenever games got close. Despite his overwhelming size and strength, he was a gentle giant and a gentleman. He was mean yet humble on the court."

O'Neill has signed a National Letter of Intent to play football on an athletic scholarship at the University of Pittsburgh 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.

O'Neill joins recent Gatorade Delaware Boys Basketball Players of the Year Sabri Thompson (2012-13, Sanford School), Eric Laster (2011-12, Polytech High School), Tim Massado (2010-11, St. Elizabeth High School), Corey Crawford (2009-10, Dover), Paul Reynolds (2008-09, Smyrna High School), Eriq Gumbs (2007-08, Caravel Academy), and Jarrett Mann (2006-07, Middletown) 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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