

**Contact: Lauren Rollins (312-729-3607)**

**HAMPDEN ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MAINE BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 21, 2014) — In its 29<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Zach Gilpin of Hampden Academy as its 2013-14 Gatorade Maine Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Gilpin is the first Gatorade Maine Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Hampden Academy.

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 Gilpin as Maine'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, Gilpin 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, 200-pound senior forward averaged 23.0 points, 10.1 rebounds, 1.9 assists and 1.6 steals per game this past season, leading the Broncos (21-1) to the Class A state championship game. A returning First Team All-State selection as named by the Maine Sunday Telegram and Bangor Daily News, Gilpin shot 50 percent from the field, 40 percent from 3-point range and 76 percent from the free throw line. The Most Valuable Player of the Eastern A regional tournament each of the past three seasons, he led Hampden to three consecutive Class A title games, winning the state championship as a junior in 2013.

Gilpin has maintained a 3.37 GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating his time as a youth basketball instructor, he has volunteered on behalf of Coats for Kids and Hoops for Hope.

"Gilpin can take you on the block, and he's a very good shooter," said Phil Conley, head coach at South Portland High. "He's hard to defend. He brings the combination of an inside-outside game. You have to pick your poison with him. If you defend him on the inside, he'll post you up, and if you double him in the post, he'll take you outside. He's a very, very good player."

Gilpin remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Gilpin joins recent Gatorade Maine Boys Basketball Players of the Year Gareth Beal (2012-13 & 2011-12, Jonesport-Beals High School), Tyler McFarland (2010-11, Camden Hills Regional High School), Stefano Mancini (2009-10, Falmouth), Thomas Knight (2008-09, Dirigo High School), Ryan Martin (2007-08, Maranacook Community High School), and Troy Barnies (2006-07, Edward Little) 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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