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**CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MASSACHUSETTS 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 Tyler Nelson of Central Catholic High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Nelson is the second Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Central Catholic 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 Nelson as Massachusetts'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, Nelson 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, 165-pound senior guard averaged 23.0 points, 6.5 rebounds, 6.3 assists and 2.4 steals per game this past season, leading the Raiders (22-6) to the Division 1 state championship game. The 2014 Merrimack Valley Conference Player of the Year, Nelson was the 2013 Lawrence Eagle Tribune Player of the Year and a 2013 Boston Herald All-Scholastic selection. He concluded his prep basketball career with 1,540 points.

Nelson has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally at the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence and as a youth tutor.

"What separates Tyler from others is that he does not shy away from the spotlight," said John Dullea, head coach of St. John's Prep. "In fact he embraces it. He is at his best when his team needs him the most, especially in the postseason."

Nelson has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on an athletic scholarship at Fairfield University 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.

Nelson joins recent Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Basketball Players of the Year Tyler Gibson (2012-13, Rockland High School), Rene Castro (2011-12, Worcester Academy), Pat Connaughton (2010-11, St. John's Preparatory School), Nate Lubick (2009-10 & 2008-09, St. Mark's School), Stevie Mejia (2007-08, Lawrence Academy), and Mike Baldarelli (2006-07, Holy Name Central Catholic) 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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