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**APPLE VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MINNESOTA 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 Tyus Jones of Apple Valley High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Minnesota Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Jones is the second Gatorade Minnesota Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Apple Valley 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 Jones as Minnesota'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, Jones 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 two-time returning Gatorade Boys Basketball Player of the Year, Jones averaged 25.6 points, 8.1 assists, 4.5 rebounds and 2.7 steals per game this past season, leading the Eagles (27-2) to the Class AAAA sectional final. Selected to both the McDonald's High School All-American Game and Jordan Brand Classic, the 6-foot-2, 186-pound senior point guard shot 58 percent from the field, 44 percent from 3-point range and 87 percent from the free throw line. A member of the USA Basketball Men's Junior National Select Team, he led Apple Valley to the Class AAA state championship as a junior last season.

Jones has maintained a 3.19 GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating his time as a youth basketball instructor, he has volunteered locally on behalf of Feed My Starving Children and as a motivational speaker for elementary school children.

"Tyus Jones' athletic accomplishments speak for themselves," said Jeff Evens, head coach of rival Jefferson High. "He makes his teammates better. They work hard off the ball knowing that if they can get open, Tyus will get them the ball. When the game dictates, Tyus can take over a game with his scoring abilities driving or shooting from the perimeter. He is very difficult to defend with just one player."

Jones has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Duke 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.

Three time winner Jones joins Gatorade Minnesota Boys Basketball Players of the Joe Coleman (2010-11, Hopkins High School), Kevin Noreen (2009-10, Minnesota Transitions Charter School), Mike Bruesewitz (2008-09, Henry Sibley High School), Jordan Taylor (2007-08, Benilde-St. Margaret's School), and Cole Aldrich (2006-07, Jefferson) 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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