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**CALLAWAY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MISSISSIPPI 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 Malik Newman of Callaway High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Mississippi Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Newman is the first Gatorade Mississippi Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Callaway 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 Newman as Mississippi'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, Newman 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-4, 180-pound junior guard led the Chargers to a 31-1 record and the Class 5A state championship this past season. Newman averaged 29.2 points, 6.2 rebounds, 3.2 assists and 1.9 steals per game. The Clarion-Ledger Metro Player of the Year and Mississippi's Mr. Basketball in 2013, he is rated as the nation's No. 1 recruit in the Class of 2015 by Rivals.com. Newman also played for USA Basketball's Men's U16 National Team and was named MVP of the FIBA Americas Championship.

Newman has maintained a B average in the classroom. A devoted member of his church community, he has volunteered locally on behalf of a youth-mentoring program, a "Don't Text and Drive" campaign and youth basketball clinics.

"Newman is one of the most talented kids I've ever seen play," said Randy Bolden, head coach at Meridian High. "He's very athletic and creative, but it's his ability to make his teammates better that makes him special. He adds another dimension to his game every year."

Newman will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Newman joins recent Gatorade Mississippi Boys Basketball Players of the Year Devin Booker (2012-13, Moss Point High School), Devonta Pollard (2011-12, Kemper County High School), Rodney Hood (2010-11, Meridian High School), Andre Stringer (2009-10 & 2008-09, Forest Hill), Scottie Haralson (2007-08, Provine High School), and Ravern Johnson (2006-07, Coahoma County) 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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