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**VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEW MEXICO 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 Adonis Saltes of Valley High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade New Mexico Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Saltes is the second Gatorade New Mexico Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from 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 Saltes as New Mexico'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, Saltes 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, 190-pound senior point guard led the Vikings to a 27-2 record and the Class A state title this past season. Saltes averaged 20.4 points, 3.4 rebounds and 3.2 assists while shooting 65 percent from inside the arc this past season. A two-time first team All-State selection, he scored a game-high 26 points in Valley's 56-42 win over Atrisco Heritage.

Saltes has maintained a 3.08 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and as a youth basketball coach.

"Adonis Saltes is an outstanding player," said Frank Castillo, head coach at La Cueva High. "He led them to the No. 1 seed and the state title this season. He is a great leader."

Saltes remains undecided on 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.

Saltes joins recent Gatorade New Mexico Boys Basketball Players of the Year Bryce Alford (2012-13, La Cueva High School), Cullen Neal (2011-12, Eldorado High School), Chris Strong (2010-11, Eldorado High School), Alex Kirk (2009-10, Los Alamos), Lucio Luttrell (2008-09, Las Cruces High School), Jeff Taylor (2007-08, Hobbs High School), and Aaron 'Gordo' Castillo (2006-07, Las Cruces) 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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