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**OUR SAVIOR NEW AMERICAN SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEW YORK 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 Cheick Diallo of Our Savior New American School as its 2013-14 Gatorade New York Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Diallo is the first Gatorade New York Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Our Savior New American 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 Diallo as New York'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, Diallo 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-9, 220-pound junior center led the Pioneers to a 28-3 record and a No. 9 ranking in the USA Today Super 25 this past season. Diallo averaged 18.5 points, 11 rebounds and four blocks per game. Rated as the nation's No. 6 recruit in the Class of 2015 by Scout.com, he led Our Savior New American to the high school division title at the National Prep Championships and was named MVP of the National Association of Christian Athletes championship.

Diallo has maintained a B average in the classroom. A devoted member of his church youth group, he has volunteered locally on behalf of a food pantry.

"Diallo is relentless and he's unique in the way he plays the game of basketball," said Pervis Ellison, head coach at Life Center Academy (N.J.). "You won't find a better rebounder in the country, and he's a tremendous defensive player. He's got things you can't teach."

Diallo 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.

Diallo joins recent Gatorade New York Boys Basketball Players of the Year Kentan Facey (2012-13, Long Island Lutheran High School), Omar Calhoun (2011-12, Christ the King Regional High School), Achraf Yacoubou (2010-11, Long Island Lutheran High School), Tobias Harris (2009-10, Half Hollow Hills West), Brandon Triche (2008-09, Jamesville-DeWitt High School), Sylvan Landesberg (2007-08, Holy Cross High School), and Jonny Flynn (2006-07, Niagara Falls) 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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