

Contact: Lauren Rollins (312-729-3607)

**JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® OREGON 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 Silas Melson of Jefferson High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Oregon Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Melson is the fourth Gatorade Oregon Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Jefferson 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 Melson as Oregon'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, Melson 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, 181-pound senior guard led the Democrats to a 26-1 record and a second consecutive Class 5A state championship this past season. A returning Class 5A First Team All-State selection as named by The Oregonian, Melson averaged 24.2 points, 6.0 rebounds, 3.3 assists and 1.5 steals. He collected 24 points, seven rebounds and four assists in a 69-64 victory against Churchill in the title game.

Melson 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 his church, including an annual initiative to feed the homeless.

"He may be the best guard the Portland Interscholastic League has seen since (1990-91 Gatorade Oregon Player of the Year) Damon Stoudamire," said Jeffrey McGee, head coach of rival Franklin High. "Every opposing coach plans and executes their game plan around dealing with Silas. Overall, his love for the game can be seen in every effort he makes on the court."

Melson has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Gonzaga 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.

Melson joins recent Gatorade Oregon Boys Basketball Players of the Year Calvin Hermanson (2012-13 & 2011-12, Lake Oswego High School), Kyle Wiltjer (2010-11, Jesuit High School), Garrett Jackson (2009-10, Westview), E. J. Singler (2008-09, South Medford High School), Brad Tinsley (2007-08, Oregon City High School), and Kevin Love (2006-07, Lake Oswego) 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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