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**HAMMOND SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® SOUTH CAROLINA BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 21, 2014) — In its 29<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Seventh Woods of Hammond School as its 2013-14 Gatorade South Carolina Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Woods is the first Gatorade South Carolina Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Hammond 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 Woods as South Carolina'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, Woods 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-2, 170-pound sophomore guard averaged 20 points, 4.1 assists, four steals and 3.6 rebounds per game while shooting 62 percent from inside the arc this past season, leading the Skyhawks (21-5) to the South Carolina Independent School Association Class AAA quarterfinals. A member of the 2013 USA Basketball Men's U16 National Team that won a gold medal in Uruguay last summer, he scored a season-high 49 points against Trinity Christian (N.C.) at the Holiday Invitational last December. He is ranked as the nation's No. 14 recruit in the class of 2016 by Rivals and No. 18 by ESPN.

Woods has maintained a B average in the classroom. An accomplished percussionist with his school's concert band, he is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and has volunteered locally on behalf of an area homeless shelter and in association with Aeropostale's "Teens for Jeans" campaign, collecting and delivering clothing for youths in need.

"Seventh Woods is the best player that I've seen in years," said Daryl Jarvis, head coach at C.A. Johnson High. "Hands down, he is the best player in the state, in my opinion. He has a very good basketball IQ, which I believe separates him from the others."

Woods will begin his junior 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.

Woods joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Boys Basketball Players of the Year Justin McKie (2012-13, Irmo High School), Brice Johnson (2011-12 & 2010-11, Edisto High School), RJ Slawson (2009-10, Fort Dorchester), Milton Jennings (2008-09 & 2007-08, Pinewood Preparatory School), and Trevor Deloach (2006-07, Saluda) 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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