

**Contact: Lauren Rollins (312-729-3607)**

**HURON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® SOUTH DAKOTA 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 Justin Decker of Huron High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade South Dakota Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Decker is the second Gatorade South Dakota Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Huron 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 Decker as South Dakota'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, Decker 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-7, 210-pound senior forward has led the Tigers to a 21-1 record and a berth in the Class AA state quarterfinals against Lincoln, scheduled for March 20. An All-State and All-Conference selection as a junior, Decker is averaging 15.2 points, 8.4 rebounds and 1.4 steals per game entering the state tournament.

Decker has maintained a 3.41 GPA in the classroom. A peer mentor in his school, he has volunteered locally on behalf of youth sports programs and an area day camp.

"Decker has the whole package," said Brent Norberg, head coach at Aberdeen Central. "He can bury you in the post, but he's really good facing up to the basket too. He's a good rebounder and passer, and he does so much for his team on defense."

Decker has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of South Dakota 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.

Decker joins recent Gatorade South Dakota Boys Basketball Players of the Year Zach Hanson (2012-13 & 2011-12, TF Riggs High School), Zach Horstman (2010-11, Winner High School), Jared Hannigan (2009-10, Central), Tony Fiegen (2008-09, Madison High School), Louie Krogman (2007-08, White River High School), and Dale Moss (2006-07, Brandon Valley) 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).

###