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ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE® TEXAS 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 Justise Winslow of St. John's School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Texas Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Winslow is the first Gatorade Texas Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from St. John's 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 Winslow as Texas'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, Winslow 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 returning Gatorade State Player of the Year, the 6-foot-6, 223-pound senior forward led the Mavericks to a 24-13 record and the Southwest Prep Conference Tournament title this past season. Winslow averaged 27.5 points, 13.6 rebounds, 3.5 assists, 2.1 blocks and 1.8 steals per game. A McDonald's All-American Game selection and a two-time SPC Player of the Year, he concluded his prep basketball career with 3,208 points and 1,708 rebounds.

Winslow has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally at Texas Children's Hospital, as part of a literacy-outreach program and as a youth basketball coach.

"Justise did not just impact the game in scoring but with defense, rebounding and passing," said John Kwok, head coach of St. Thomas High. "What makes him stand out to me is that he is a team player. I have seen a lot of players that can score but he makes his teammates better."

Winslow has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on an athletic scholarship at Duke 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.

Two time winner Winslow joins Gatorade Texas Boys Basketball Players of the Year Marcus Smart (2011-12 & 2010-11, Marcus High School), Joseph Young (2009-10, Yates), Tommy Mason-Griffin (2008-09, Madison High School), Willie Warren (2007-08, North Crowley High School), and Gary Johnson (2006-07, Aldine) 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.