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**CARLISLE SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® VIRGINIA 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 Thon Maker of Carlisle School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Virginia Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Maker is the first Gatorade Virginia Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Carlisle 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 Maker as Virginia'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, Maker 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 7-foot, 210-pound sophomore center led the Chiefs to a 33-10 record and the Virginia Independent School Athletic Association Division II state title this past season. Maker averaged 21.3 points, 13.3 rebounds, 4.2 blocks and 1.7 steals per game. The VISAA State Player of the Year and the MVP of the Division II state tournament, Maker is rated the nation's No. 1 recruit in the Class of 2016 by ESPN. He recorded 26 points, 18 rebounds and five blocks in Carlisle's state title game win over Christchurch School.

Maker has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth mentor and on behalf of fundraising efforts to benefit muscular dystrophy research. He has also donated his time to area beautification projects.

"What makes Thon so dangerous is his versatility," said Ben Thompson, head coach of Christchurch School. "He's very good in the mid-range, has a jumper that is decent from 3-point range and has solid handle. This is all from a guy who is 7 feet. His impact on a game is tremendous."

Maker 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.

Maker joins recent Gatorade Virginia Boys Basketball Players of the Year Troy Williams (2012-13, Oak Hill Academy), Tyler Lewis (2011-12, Oak Hill Academy), James McAdoo (2010-11 & 2009-10, Norfolk Christian High School), Keith 'Tiny' Gallon (2008-09, Oak Hill Academy), Brandon Jennings (2007-08, Oak Hill Academy), and Nolan Smith (2006-07, Oak Hill Academy) 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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