

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lauren Rollins (312-729-3607)

**JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® WASHINGTON 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 Jason Todd of Jackson High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Washington Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Todd is the first Gatorade Washington Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Jackson 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 Todd as Washington'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, Todd 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 state's returning Gatorade Boys Basketball Player of the Year, Todd averaged 17.2 points, 10.5 rebounds, 4.1 assists and 1.7 steals in 26 minutes per game, leading the Timberwolves (25-2) to fourth place in the Class 4A state tournament. Named Mr. Basketball by the Washington Interscholastic Basketball Coaches Association, the 6-foot-5, 200-pound senior guard shot 51 percent from the field and 81 percent from the free throw line.

Todd has maintained a 3.53 GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating his time as a youth basketball instructor, he has volunteered locally as an assistant in elementary school classrooms.

"He is hands-down the most difficult player to prepare for as a coach," said Cory West, head coach of rival Kamiak High. "Not only does he score, but he posts up, he brings the ball up the court and he defends. He does whatever his team needs him to do on that given night. He continues to finish every game with a smile and a thank you to the opposing coach."

Todd has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Portland 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 Todd joins Gatorade Washington Boys Basketball Players of the Jordan Chatman (2011-12, Union High School), Gary Bell Jr. (2010-11, Kentridge High School), Joe Harris (2009-10, Chelan), Peyton Siva (2008-09, Franklin High School), Abdul Gaddy (2007-08, Bellarmine Prep. School), and Jamelle McMillan (2006-07, O'Dea) 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.

###