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**MADISON ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® ALABAMA BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 20, 2015) — In its 30<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 Josh Langford of Madison Academy as its 2014-15 Gatorade Alabama Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Langford is the first Gatorade Alabama Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Madison Academy.

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 Langford as Alabama'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, Langford 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 2012-13 Gatorade Boys Basketball Player of the Year, Langford led the Mustangs to a 19-12 record and a second Class 3A state championship in the past three seasons. In the 75-51, title-clinching victory against Piedmont, the 6-foot-6, 200-pound junior guard collected 19 points, 12 rebounds and seven assists, capturing state tournament MVP honors. A three-time returning Class 3A Player of the Year honoree as named by the Alabama Sports Writers Association, he averaged 24.7 points, 8.8 rebounds, 3.9 assists and 1.9 steals per game this winter. Langford shot 53.7 percent from the field, 45.3 percent from 3-point range and 73.5 percent from the free-throw line. In addition to participating in the NBPA Top 100 Camp and adidas Nations Basketball Experience this past summer, he was also a member of the 2013-14 USA Basketball Men's Developmental National Team.

Langford has maintained a 3.18 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has donated his time locally as a youth basketball coach and has volunteered on behalf of both his church and the Downtown Rescue Mission homeless shelter.

"He was the best individual player we saw all season at any level," said Brian Gafford, head coach of rival Clements High. "He's a great shooter, and at 6-foot-6 can play the one, even though I assume he is a two in college. He has extremely good touch on his shot, and of course he can get to the rim."

Langford will begin his senior 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.

Two-time winner Langford joins recent Gatorade Alabama Boys Basketball Players of the Year William Lee (2013-14, Dallas County High School), Craig Sword (2011-12, Carver High School), Levi Randolph (2010-11, Bob Jones High School), KT Harrell (2009-10, Brewbaker Technology Magnet), Jordan Swing (2008-09, Vestavia Hills High School), JaMychal Green (2007-08, St. Jude Educational Institute), and Justin Knox (2006-07, Tuscaloosa Central High School) 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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