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**CORONA DEL SOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® ARIZONA 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 **Alex Barcello of Corona del Sol High School** as its **2014-15 Gatorade Arizona Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Barcello is the fourth Gatorade Arizona Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Corona del Sol 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 Barcello as Arizona'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, Barcello 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-2, 165-pound sophomore guard led the Aztecs to a 33-1 record and the Division I state title this past season. The 2014-15 Arizona Basketball Coaches Association Division I Player of the Year, Barcello averaged 20.3 points and 4.6 rebounds per game while shooting 65 percent from inside the arc. He also averaged 17.8 points and 4.6 assists per game in the postseason, capturing First Team All-Tournament honors.

Barcello has maintained a 4.0 weighted GPA in the classroom. He is a devoted parishioner in his church community where he has volunteered locally on behalf of his youth group and in association with the St. Vincent de Paul Society charity.

"In my opinion, Alex Barcello is the best basketball player in Arizona," said Darren Bustos, head coach at Central High. "On the court, he demonstrated good sportsmanship and more importantly, is a terrific basketball player. He is very skilled and truly understands the fundamentals of the game."

Barcello 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.

Barcello joins recent Gatorade Arizona Boys Basketball Players of the Year Dorian Pickens (2013-14, Pinnacle High School), Casey Benson (2012-13, Corona del Sol High School), Tim Derksen (2011-12, Amphitheater High School), Jordan Baker (2010-11, Tempe High School), Corey Hawkins (2009-10 & 2008-09, Estrella Foothills High School), Taylor Rohde (2007-08, Pinnacle High School), and Jerryd Bayless (2006-07, St. Mary's 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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