

Contact: Kelly Magnus (312-729-3622)

**DENVER EAST HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® COLORADO BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 20, 2015) — In its 30th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Brian Carey of Denver East High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Colorado Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Carey is the second Gatorade Colorado Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Denver East 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 Carey as Colorado'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, Carey 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 5-foot-10, 160-pound senior guard averaged 24.5 points, 7.8 assists, 2.8 rebounds and 2.6 steals per game this past season, leading the Angels (17-11) to the Class 5A state semifinals. A returning Class 5A Second Team All-State selection as named by The Denver Post, Carey shot 45.5 percent from the field, 30.1 percent from beyond the arc and 84.9 percent from the free-throw line. A member of East's Class 5A state title team in 2014, he led Colorado's highest classification in points and assists per game despite battling an ankle injury in his final prep campaign.

Carey has maintained a 3.32 weighted GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating his time locally with the elderly and as a youth basketball instructor, he has volunteered on behalf of a literacy-outreach program, the Special Olympics and Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. He has also participated in multiple clothing, food and toy drives to benefit the needy.

"The effort that he puts forth, both in the classroom and on the court, has been exemplary," said Michael Rogers, head coach of rival Grandview High. "His dedication to making himself a better basketball player is second to none. I have had the pleasure of coaching Brian during Denver East's state championship season and coached against him the years prior to the state championship. He has always carried himself in a manner that any parent, teacher and coach would be proud of."

Carey has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Texas Southern 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.

Carey joins recent Gatorade Colorado Boys Basketball Players of the Year Dominique Collier (2013-14 & 2012-13, Denver East High School), Josh Scott (2011-12, Lewis-Palmer High School), Brett Olson (2010-11, Highlands Ranch High School), Bud Thomas (2009-10 & 2008-09, Regis Jesuit High School), Reggie Jackson (2007-08, Palmer High School), and Levi Knutson (2006-07, Arapahoe 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.

###