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**HIGHLAND HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® IDAHO 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 Stefan Gonzalez of Highland High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Idaho Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Gonzalez is the first Gatorade Idaho Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Highland 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 Gonzalez as Idaho'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, Gonzalez 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-1, 185-pound senior point guard averaged 20 points and 6.4 rebounds per game while shooting 57 percent from inside the arc this past season, leading the Rams (23-4) to the Class 5A state final. A 2014 First Team All-State selection, Gonzalez also posted regular-season averages of four assists and two steals per game and registered 31 points in the state final against Post Falls.

Gonzalez has maintained a 3.85 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society, he has volunteered locally on behalf of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Habitat for Humanity and the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots Foundation.

"Gonzalez is an excellent basketball player and a very heady point guard," said John Tucker, head coach at Bonneville High. "The game just seems to flow for his team and he has such control over what happens on the floor. His court vision is second to none and his ability to stuff the stat sheet was amazing. More than once, I felt we did a good job of containing him only to look at the stats and see that he dominated all over the floor."

Gonzalez has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Saint Mary's College of California 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.

Gonzalez joins recent Gatorade Idaho Boys Basketball Players of the Year Isaiah Wright (2013-14 & 2012-13, Borah High School), Joey Nebeker (2011-12, Melba High School), Kyle Dranginis (2010-11 & 2009-10, Skyview High School), Josh Fuller (2008-09, Madison High School), Mitch Bruneel (2007-08, Eagle High School), and Matt Ballenger (2006-07, Skyview 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.

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