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**WESTERN DUBUQUE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® IOWA 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 Spencer Haldeman of Western Dubuque High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Iowa Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Haldeman is the first Gatorade Iowa Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Western Dubuque 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 Haldeman as Iowa'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, Haldeman 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, 175-pound senior point guard averaged 24.3 and six rebounds per game while shooting 54 percent from inside the arc this past season, leading the Bobcats (19-4) to the Class 4A sub-state semifinals. A two-time First Team All-State selection, Haldeman also posted regular-season averages of 5.1 assists and 2.2 steals per game and led all of Class 4A with 119 total assists.

Haldeman has maintained a 3.52 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Future Business Leaders of America, he has volunteered locally on behalf of an assisted living home, a food bank and as a youth golf and basketball instructor.

"I have coached 46 years and have had many First Team All-State players and Spencer Haldeman is the best I have ever had the privilege to coach," said Western Dubuque head coach Dennis Geraghty. "As a point guard, he is by far the best passer I have seen in high school."

Haldeman has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Northern Iowa 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.

Haldeman joins recent Gatorade Iowa Boys Basketball Players of the Year Wyatt Lohaus (2013-14, Iowa City West High School), Jeremy Morgan (2012-13, Iowa City West High School), Marcus Paige (2011-12, Linn-Mar High School), Jarrod Uthoff (2010-11, Jefferson High School), Harrison Barnes (2009-10 & 2008-09, Ames High School), Matt Gatens (2007-08, City High School), and Brent Barz (2006-07, Johnston 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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