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**ST. JOHN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® KANSAS 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 Dean Wade of St. John High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Kansas Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Wade is the first Gatorade Kansas Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from St. John 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 Wade as Kansas'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, Wade 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-9, 225-pound senior forward led the Tigers to a 26-0 record and a third consecutive Class 2A state championship this past season. In the 49-44, title-clinching win over Central Plains, Wade collected 28 points and 13 rebounds, concluding his prep career with 58 straight victories. A McDonald's All-American Game nominee, Wade averaged 24.8 points, 9.8 rebounds, 3.7 steals, 3.4 assists and 2.9 blocks per game. Also a returning Kansas Basketball Coaches Association Class 2A First Team All-State selection, he shot 72.5 percent from the field, 42.5 percent from 3-point range and 76.2 percent from the free-throw line in his final prep campaign.

Wade has maintained a 3.29 GPA in the classroom. A member of his school's band and Kansas Association for Youth Club, he has donated his time as a youth basketball instructor, on behalf of his church's youth group and as part of multiple fundraising campaigns to benefit St. John High.

"I have seen a lot of great basketball talent over the years, and Wade is the best all-around player I have seen in quite some time," said Brett Rolfs, head coach of rival Central Plains High. "I have never seen a player of his size as multi-tooled as he is. He can play the one all the way to the five. He has great ball-handling skills, vision of the court, and an outstanding jump shot, and he has great knowledge of the game that has helped him craft all the aforementioned skills."

Wade has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Kansas State 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.

Wade joins recent Gatorade Kansas Boys Basketball Players of the Year Clay Custer (2013-14, Blue Valley Northwest High School), Semi Ojeleye (2012-13, Ottawa High School), Perry Ellis (2011-12, 2010-11 & 2008-09, Wichita Heights High School), and Travis Releford (2007-08 & 2006-07, Bishop Miege 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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