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**UNIVERSITY LABORATORY SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® LOUISIANA 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 Wayde Sims of University Laboratory School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Louisiana Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Sims is the second Gatorade Louisiana Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from University Laboratory 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 Sims as Louisiana'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, Sims 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-6, 210-pound junior forward led the Cubs to a 33-3 record and a second consecutive Class 3A state championship this past season. In a 77-60, title-clinching victory against John Curtis High, Sims collected 27 points, 14 rebounds and two assists, capturing Most Outstanding Player honors in the Class 3A state tournament for the second straight season. A returning Class 3A First Team All-State selection as named by the Louisiana Sports Writers Association, Sims averaged 17.6 points, 9.5 rebounds, 1.5 steals, 1.1 assists and 1.1 blocks per game in 2014-15. He shot 62.8 percent from the field and 71.3 percent from the free-throw line.

Sims has maintained a 3.37 GPA in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade Award's broad criteria. A member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, he has also volunteered as part of multiple service initiatives on behalf of his church.

"He is a good basketball player that is fundamental and plays the game hard," said Brandon White, head coach of rival Parkview Baptist School. "He uses both hands really well. Wade finished exceptionally well around the rim. He plays above the rim, and he can consistently make a 15-foot jump shot. Not only is he a good basketball player, but also he's an even better person. He's a quality young man."

Sims will begin his senior 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.

Sims joins recent Gatorade Louisiana Boys Basketball Players of the Year Trey Touchet (2013-14 & 2012-13, St. Thomas More High School), Ricardo Gathers (2011-12 & 2010-11, Riverside Academy), Matt Derenbecker (2009-10 & 2008-09, Metairie Park Country Day School), Greg Monroe (2007-08 & 2006-07, Helen Cox 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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