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**MESSALONSKEE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MAINE 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 Nick Mayo of Messalonskee High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Maine Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Mayo is the second Gatorade Maine Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Messalonskee 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 Mayo as Maine'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, Mayo 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-8, 225-pound senior forward and center averaged 24.4 points, 13.6 rebounds, 3.1 assists, 3.0 blocks and 1.8 steals per game this past season, leading the Eagles (14-6) to the Class A state quarterfinals. A Mr. Maine Basketball finalist, Mayo shot 50.2 percent from the field, 40.0 percent from 3-point range and 81.1 percent from the free-throw line. The 2015 Kennebec Valley Athletic Conference Player of the Year, he also participated in the Maine McDonald's High School Senior All-Star Game this winter.

Mayo has maintained a B average in the classroom. In addition to serving as a youth basketball instructor, he has volunteered on behalf of the Bedside Manor Alzheimer's Care Facility and participated in a walkathon fundraiser for brain injury research. He has also donated his time as part of community cleanup efforts to benefit the elderly.

"As far as talent goes, I do not think our area—Central Maine along I-95—has seen a player like this since [two-time Gatorade Maine Boys Basketball Player of the Year] T.J. Caouette, who graduated from Winthrop High in 1996," said Jason Pellerin, head coach of rival Lawrence High. "At 6-foot-8, he can simply do anything he wants on the court."

Mayo has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Eastern Kentucky 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.

Mayo joins recent Gatorade Maine Boys Basketball Players of the Year Zach Gilpin (2013-14, Hampden Academy), Garett Beal (2012-13 & 2011-12, Jonesport-Beals High School), Tyler McFarland (2010-11, Camden Hills Regional High School), Stefano Mancini (2009-10, Falmouth High School), Thomas Knight (2008-09, Dirigo High School), Ryan Martin (2007-08, Maranacook Community High School), and Troy Barnies (2006-07, Edward Little 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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