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**CATHOLIC MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MASSACHUSETTS 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 Guilien Smith of Catholic Memorial High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Smith is the first Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Catholic Memorial 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 Smith as Massachusetts'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, Smith 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, 196-pound senior guard led the Knights to a 24-2 record and the Division 1 state championship this past season. Smith averaged 19.4 points, 8.2 rebounds and 3.2 assists per game, including 26 points and seven boards in Catholic Memorial's 80-70 win over Putnam Tech in the state title game. A 2014 Boston Herald Dream Team selection, he was a two-time Catholic Conference MVP.

Smith has maintained an A average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a peer and youth tutor and as a school ambassador. He has also donated his time as part of multiple fundraising campaigns to benefit breast cancer research.

"Guilien Smith is a potent combination of speed, quickness and power," said Jim McCune, head coach of Malden Catholic High. "The game is not about him. He does what his team and coach need him to do to win the game."

Smith has verbally committed to attend Dartmouth College, where he will play basketball beginning 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.

Smith joins recent Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Basketball Players of the Year Tyler Nelson (2013-14, Central Catholic High School), Tyler Gibson (2012-13, Rockland High School), Rene Castro (2011-12, Worcester Academy), Pat Connaughton (2010-11, St. John's Preparatory School), Nate Lubick (2009-10 & 2008-09, St. Mark's School), Stevie Mejia (2007-08, Lawrence Academy), and Mike Baldarelli (2006-07, Holy Name Central Catholic 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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