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**CHAMPLIN PARK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MINNESOTA BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 20, 2015) — In its 30<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced J.T. Gibson of Champlin Park High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Minnesota Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Gibson is the first Gatorade Minnesota Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Champlin Park 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 Gibson as Minnesota'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, Gibson 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-3, 180-pound senior guard averaged 18.3 points, 4.7 assists, 3.8 rebounds and 2.2 steals per game this past season, leading the Rebels (31-1) to the Class AAAA state championship game. The Metro Player of the Year as named by the Star Tribune, Gibson shot 54.5 percent from the field, 45.5 percent from 3-point range and 84.9 percent from the free-throw line. In six postseason games, he averaged 15.7 points, 5.7 assists, 4.3 rebounds and 1.5 steals, capturing Class AAAA All-Tournament honors.

Gibson has maintained a 3.23 weighted GPA in the classroom. A member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, he has volunteered on behalf of his church, Feed My Starving Children and the Rites of Passage community-service organization for Minneapolis boys and girls. In addition to donating his time as a youth basketball instructor, he has also participated in a literacy-outreach program for local school children.

"Gibson is one heck of a player on one of the best high school boys' basketball teams ever in the state of Minnesota," said Grant Guzy, head coach of rival Spring Lake Park High. "J.T. is the ultimate competitor, who refuses to let his team lose and comes ready to play, night in and night out, no matter who the opponent is. He is a very skilled player on both ends of the court. He is also a very unselfish player, who keeps his teammates involved."

Gibson has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Nebraska Omaha 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.

Gibson joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Boys Basketball Players of the Year Tyus Jones (2013-14, 2012-13 & 2011-12, Apple Valley High School), Joe Coleman (2010-11, Hopkins High School), Kevin Noreen (2009-10, Minnesota Transitions Charter School), Mike Bruesewitz (2008-09, Henry Sibley High School), Jordan Taylor (2007-08, Benilde-St. Margaret's School), and Cole Aldrich (2006-07, Jefferson 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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