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**CALLAWAY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MISSISSIPPI 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 Malik Newman of Callaway High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Mississippi Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Newman is the first Gatorade Mississippi Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Callaway 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 Newman as Mississippi'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, Newman 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-4, 174-pound senior guard led the Chargers to a 31-2 record, their fourth consecutive Class 5A state championship and the No. 4 national ranking in USA TODAY's Super 25 this past season. The state's returning Gatorade Boys Basketball Player of the Year, Newman averaged 29.8 points, 5.7 rebounds and 4.2 assists per game. Twice named Mr. Basketball by the Clarion-Ledger, he has been selected to play in the Jordan Brand Classic and the McDonald's All-American games, as well as the Nike Hoop Summit. Also a member of USA TODAY's All-USA Preseason Boys Basketball Team, Newman played for USA Basketball's Men's U17 National Team and was MVP of the FIBA World Championships.

Newman has maintained a B average in the classroom. A devoted member of his church community, he has volunteered locally on behalf of a mentoring program, youth basketball clinics and a "Don't Text and Drive" campaign.

"Malik Newman is a pro playing with high school kids," said Ernie Watson, head coach at Hattiesburg High. "He's dangerous in the open court and he can find the open man if you double team him. He's also an extremely humble kid and he works hard."

Newman remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Two-time winner Newman joins Gatorade Mississippi Boys Basketball Players of the Year Devin Booker (2012-13, Moss Point High School), Devonta Pollard (2011-12, Kemper County High School), Rodney Hood (2010-11, Meridian High School), Jake Stringer (2009-10 & 2008-09, Forest Hill High School), Scottie Haralson (2007-08, Provine High School), and Ravern Johnson (2006-07, Coahoma County 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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