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**TRENTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEW JERSEY 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 Malachi Richardson of Trenton Catholic Academy as its 2014-15 Gatorade New Jersey Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Richardson is the first Gatorade New Jersey Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Trenton Catholic Academy.

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 Richardson as New Jersey'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, Richardson 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, 195-pound senior guard led the Iron Mikes to a 22-5 record and the Non-Public B South Final this past season. Richardson averaged 20.2 points, 5.1 rebounds, 4.3 assists and 1.9 steals per game. Rated the nation's No. 19 recruit in the Class of 2015 by ESPN, he has been selected to play in the Jordan Brand Classic and the McDonald's All-American games.

Richardson has maintained a 3.48 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of his church community, he serves as a math tutor at his school and has volunteered locally on behalf of an assisted living facility.

"Richardson's got great size and great versatility," said Jonathan Stone, head coach at The Hun School. "He's very skilled, very smooth, with the ability to shoot from deep."

Richardson has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Syracuse 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.

Richardson joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Boys Basketball Players of the Year Karl Towns Jr. (2013-14 & 2012-13, St. Joseph High School), Tyler Ennis (2011-12, St. Benedict's Prep. School), Michael Gilchrist (2010-11 & 2008-09, St. Patrick High School), Kyrie Irving (2009-10, St. Patrick High School), Samardo Samuels (2007-08, St. Benedict's Prep. School), and Corey Fisher (2006-07, St. Patrick 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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