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**SUE CLEVELAND HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® NEW MEXICO 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 Ryan Jones of Sue Cleveland High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade New Mexico Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Jones is the first Gatorade New Mexico Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Sue Cleveland 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 Jones as New Mexico'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, Jones 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-2, 165-pound senior shooting guard averaged 21 and 4.5 rebounds per game while shooting 46 percent from 3-point range this past season, leading the Storm (28-3) to the Class 6A state final. A two-time First Team All-State selection and the 2015 Class 6A co-Player of the Year, Jones scored a game-high 24 points in a double-overtime, 81-77 won over Sandia in the state quarterfinals.

Jones has maintained a 3.19 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics, as a mentor for elementary school children and as a youth basketball coach.

"Ryan Jones is the most talented and gifted basketball player in New Mexico this year," said Joe Coleman, head coach at Valley High. "He is capable of taking over a game at any time. He is such a good teammate he often does his job as a guard and tries to get everyone involved in the game."

Jones has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Massachusetts at Lowell 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.

Jones joins recent Gatorade New Mexico Boys Basketball Players of the Year Adonis Saltes (2013-14, Valley High School), Bryce Alford (2012-13, La Cueva High School), Cullen Neal (2011-12, Eldorado High School), Chris Strong (2010-11, Eldorado High School), Alex Kirk (2009-10, Los Alamos), Lucio Luttrell (2008-09, Las Cruces High School), Jeff Taylor (2007-08, Hobbs High School), and Aaron 'Gordo' Castillo (2006-07, Las Cruces 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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