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**OUR SAVIOR NEW AMERICAN SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® NEW YORK 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 Cheick Diallo of Our Savior New American School as its 2014-15 Gatorade New York Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Diallo is the first Gatorade New York Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Our Savior New American 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 Diallo as New York'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, Diallo 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-9, 225-pound senior center averaged 17.6 points, 10.5 rebounds and 2.5 blocks per game this past season, leading the Pioneers to a 22-12 record. The state's returning Gatorade Boys Basketball Player of the Year, Diallo has been selected to play in the Jordan Brand Classic and the McDonald's All-American games, as well as the Nike Hoop Summit. Rated as the nation's No. 7 recruit in the Class of 2015 by Rivals.com, he was also named to USA TODAY's All-USA Preseason Boys Basketball Team.

Diallo has maintained a B average in the classroom. A devoted member of his church youth group, he has volunteered locally on behalf of a food pantry.

"Diallo is an outstanding basketball player who does a lot of things well," said Neil Jenkins, head coach at Upper Room Christian School. "He scores, rebounds, blocks, defends. His ability to get up and down the floor is incredible, and he's got a non-stop motor; you can't tire him out."

Diallo 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 Diallo joins Gatorade New York Boys Basketball Players of the Year Kentan Facey (2012-13, Long Island Lutheran High School), Omar Calhoun (2011-12, Christ the King Regional High School), Achraf Yacoubou (2010-11, Long Island Lutheran High School), Tobias Harris (2009-10, Half Hollow Hills High School West), Brandon Triche (2008-09, Jamesville-DeWitt High School), Sylvan Landesberg (2007-08, Holy Cross High School), and Jonny Flynn (2006-07, Niagara Falls 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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