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**WEST LINN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® OREGON 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 Payton Pritchard of West Linn High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Oregon Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Pritchard is the first Gatorade Oregon Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from West Linn 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 Pritchard as Oregon'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, Pritchard 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-1, 185-pound junior point guard led the Lions to a 25-4 record and a third consecutive Class 6A state championship this past season. In the 67-58, title-clinching victory against Jesuit, Pritchard finished with 29 points, seven rebounds, six steals and three assists, capturing First Team All-Tournament honors. The 2014 Class 6A Player of the Year as named by The Oregonian, Pritchard averaged 22.0 points, 5.8 assists, 3.8 rebounds and 2.4 steals per game. Also the returning Three Rivers League Player of the Year, he shot 47.1 percent from the field, 42.7 percent from 3-point range and 82.5 percent from the free-throw line.

Pritchard has maintained a 3.61 weighted GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating his time as a youth basketball instructor, he has also participated in an exchange program each of the past two summers, mentoring players from Lugo, Spain, in an English-immersion and basketball skills clinic.

"He is dominant on the court, but is a true point guard who gets his teammates involved," said Mark Brown, head coach of rival Newberg High. "He is a very unselfish player who does not look to get his shots up, but looks for the best option on the court."

Pritchard has verbally committed to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Oklahoma beginning in the fall of 2016.

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.

Pritchard joins recent Gatorade Oregon Boys Basketball Players of the Year Silas Melson (2013-14, Jefferson High School), Calvin Hermanson (2012-13 & 2011-12, Lake Oswego High School), Kyle Wiltjer (2010-11, Jesuit High School), Garrett Jackson (2009-10, Westview High School), E. J. Singler (2008-09, South Medford High School), Brad Tinsley (2007-08, Oregon City High School), and Kevin Love (2006-07, Lake Oswego 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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