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**SPRING VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® SOUTH CAROLINA 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 P.J. Dozier of Spring Valley High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade South Carolina Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Dozier is the first Gatorade South Carolina Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Spring Valley 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 Dozier as South Carolina'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, Dozier 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-7, 195-pound senior point guard averaged 19 points and six assists per game this past season, leading the Vikings (19-8) to the Class 4A regional final. A 2015 McDonald's All-American Game selection, he is ranked as the nation's No. 25 recruit in the class of 2015 by ESPN.

Dozier has maintained a 3.09 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally with a children's museum, as a mentor for children with special needs and on behalf of the American Red Cross.

"P.J. Dozier is an unbelievable player who makes his teammates better," said Layne Fowler, head coach at Byrnes High. "He seems to have a wonderful attitude and I think he is one of the best players our state has seen in a long time."

Dozier has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of South Carolina 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.

Dozier joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Boys Basketball Players of the Year Seventh Woods (2013-14, Hammond School), Justin McKie (2012-13, Irmo High School), Brice Johnson (2011-12 & 2010-11, Edisto High School), RJ Slawson (2009-10, Fort Dorchester High School), Milton Jennings (2008-09 & 2007-08, Pinewood Preparatory School), and Trevor Deloach (2006-07, Saluda 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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