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**HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® TENNESSEE 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 Dedric Lawson of Hamilton High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Tennessee Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Lawson is the second Gatorade Tennessee Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Hamilton 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 Lawson as Tennessee'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, Lawson 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-8, 195-pound senior forward led the Wildcats to an 18-16 record and the Class AAA state title this past season. Lawson averaged 21.3 points, 15.5 rebounds, 3.2 blocks, 2.0 assists and 1.0 steals per game, including 20 points and 11 boards in Hamilton's 65-62 win over Brentwood High in the state title game. The state's 2015 Class AAA Mr. Basketball, he was selected to participate in both the McDonald's All-American Game and the Jordan Brand Classic.

Lawson has maintained an A average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally with the annual Zach Randolph Thanksgiving Basket Drive and has donated his time to an elementary school literacy-outreach campaign.

"Dedric Lawson is so versatile with his offensive game," said Sherman Jones, head coach of Melrose High. "When he goes to the post he demands a double-team, but he's a willing passer with great vision so it's almost always an opportunity for a score. He's so valuable to the team because he does so much more than score."

Lawson has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Memphis 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.

Lawson joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Boys Basketball Players of the Year Leron Black (2013-14, White Station High School), Austin Nichols (2012-13, Briarcrest Christian High School), Alex Poythress (2011-12, Northeast High School), Adonis Thomas (2010-11, Melrose High School), Joe Jackson (2009-10, White Station High School), John Jenkins (2008-09, Station Camp High School), Leslie McDonald (2007-08, Briarcrest Christian School), and Maurice Miller (2006-07, Raleigh-Egypt 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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