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**OAK HILL ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® VIRGINIA 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 Dwayne Bacon of Oak Hill Academy as its 2014-15 Gatorade Virginia Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Bacon is the eighth Gatorade Virginia Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Oak Hill Academy.

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 Bacon as Virginia'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, Bacon 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-6, 210-pound senior shooting guard has led the Warriors to a 45-0 record and the USA TODAY Top 25 No. 1 ranking heading into the Dick's Sporting Goods National High School Tournament, scheduled to begin April 2. Bacon averaged 24.4 points, 4.4 rebounds, 3.4 assists and 2.2 steals through 45 games. He was selected to participate in the McDonald's All-American Game and the Jordan Brand Classic.

Bacon has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics and the Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

"Dwayne Bacon is a big, explosive wing who can make tough shots," said Brandon Clifford, head coach of High Point Christian High. "He is the one guy they have that can get a basket without much help. It's hard to defend a guy with that size and athleticism at the high school level."

Bacon has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Florida State University 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.

Bacon joins recent Gatorade Virginia Boys Basketball Players of the Year Thon Maker (2013-14, Carlisle School), Troy Williams (2012-13, Oak Hill Academy), Tyler Lewis (2011-12, Oak Hill Academy), James McAdoo (2010-11 & 2009-10, Norfolk Christian High School), Keith 'Tiny' Gallon (2008-09, Oak Hill Academy), Brandon Jennings (2007-08, Oak Hill Academy), and Nolan Smith (2006-07, Oak Hill Academy) 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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