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## **RICE LAKE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE® WISCONSIN 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 Henry Ellenson of Rice Lake High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Wisconsin Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Ellenson is the first Gatorade Wisconsin Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Rice Lake 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 Ellenson as Wisconsin'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, Ellenson 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-11, 230-pound senior forward has led the Warriors to a 21-5 record and a berth in the Division 2 state semifinals, scheduled for March 20. A McDonald's All-American Game and Jordan Brand Classic selection, Ellenson averaged 27.4 points, 12.0 rebounds, 2.4 blocks, 1.8 assists and 1.4 steals through 26 games. Also a two-time returning Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association Division 2 First Team All-State honoree, Ellenson shot 45.8 percent from the field and 69.5 percent from the free-throw line entering the round of four. In addition to participating in Nike's LeBron James Skills Academy, Big Man Skills Academy and Elite Youth Basketball League this past summer, Ellenson averaged 8.7 points and 5.1 rebounds during USA Basketball's unbeaten run to the 2014 FIBA U17 World Championship.

Ellenson has maintained a 3.44 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society and the vice president for Young Democrats of Wisconsin, he has volunteered on behalf of his church's youth group and as part of his school's physical education classes for students with physical limitations. Ellenson has also donated his time as a youth basketball instructor, scorekeeper and official.

"Henry is a great player," said Tim Thompson, head coach of rival Chippewa Falls High. "He probably is the most physically imposing, skilled and talented player I have seen in 30 years of Wisconsin high school basketball."

Ellenson has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Marquette 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.

Ellenson joins recent Gatorade Wisconsin Boys Basketball Players of the Year Kevon Looney (2013-14, Hamilton High School), Luke Fischer (2012-13, Germantown High School), Sam Dekker (2011-12, Sheboygan Lutheran High School), Paul Jespersen (2010-11, Merrill High School), Josh Gasser (2009-10, Port Washington High School), Ben Averkamp (2008-09, Germantown High School), Kwamain Mitchell (2007-08, Dominican High School), and Tim Jarmusz (2006-07, Oshkosh West 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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