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**STARKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MISSISSIPPI BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 17, 2016) — In its 31<sup>st</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Tyson Carter of Starkville High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Mississippi Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Carter is the second Gatorade Mississippi Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Starkville 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 Carter as Mississippi'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, Carter 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-4, 165-pound senior guard led the Yellowjackets to a 27-6 record and the Class 6A state championship game this past season. Carter averaged 21.3 points, 5.2 assists, 4.4 rebounds and 2.1 steals per game. A member of the Clarion-Ledger Dandy Dozen, he was a Best of Preps Third Team selection as a junior and the Most Outstanding Player of the 2015 Class 6A state championship game.

Carter has maintained a 3.45 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of the St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church.

"Carter is very skilled, he can beat you off the dribble and he can really shoot the basketball," said Jaworski Rankin, head coach at Aberdeen High. "He also has a great IQ for the game and rarely gets rattled. He plays with so much confidence and has an understanding of when and how to make big plays."

Carter has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Mississippi 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.

Carter joins recent Gatorade Mississippi Boys Basketball Players of the Year Malik Newman (2014-15 & 2013-14, Callaway High School), Devin Booker (2012-13, Moss Point High School), Devonta Pollard (2011-12, Kemper County High School), Rodney Hood (2010-11, Meridian High School), Jake Stringer (2009-10, Forest Hill High School), Andre Stringer (2008-09, Forest Hill High School), Scottie Haralson (2007-08, Provine High School), and Ravern Johnson (2006-07, Coahoma County 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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