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**GATORADE® NATIONAL BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR:
JAYSON TATUM**

Four-Time NBA All-Star Penny Hardaway Surprises Standout with Elite Honor

St. Louis, MO (March 31, 2016) – In its 31st year of honoring the nation’s best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Jayson Tatum of Chaminade College Preparatory School (St. Louis) as its 2015-16 Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year.

“Jayson really deserves to be this year’s Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year because he symbolizes everything the award stands for,” said Hardaway. “Not only has Jayson shined on the court, but he’s also a good student and is a positive influence in the community. I’m excited to follow his career at Duke and watch all the things – on and off the court – he will accomplish in the future.”

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 Tatum as the nation’s best high school boys basketball player. A national advisory panel comprised of sport-specific experts and sports journalists helped select Tatum from nearly 540,000 high school boys basketball players nationwide. Jayson is now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade Male High School Athlete of the Year award, to be presented at a special ceremony prior to The ESPY Awards in July.

The 6-foot-9 senior wing led the Red Devils to a Class 5 state championship, scoring 40 points in a victory over Kickapoo High School March 19. In his first 30 games this season, Tatum averaged 29 points and nine rebounds per game while shooting 61 percent from inside the arc and 86 percent from the free throw line.

Tatum is a two-time returning Gatorade Missouri Boys Basketball Player of the Year, and also a 2016 McDonald’s All-American Game and Jordan Brand Classic selection. Ranked as the nation’s No. 2 senior recruit in the ESPN 100, Tatum was a member of the 2015 USA Basketball Men’s U19 World Championship Team that won a gold medal at the FIBA U19 World Championship in Heraklion, Greece last summer, averaging 13.9 points and 2.1 assists in seven games.

Tatum has maintained a B average in the classroom. A student ambassador at his school, he has volunteered locally by cooking and serving food for the needy on behalf of the Father Dempsey Charities. Tatum has also donated his time as a guest speaker for at-risk youth in Ferguson and as a coach and instructor at numerous youth basketball camps and clinics.

In addition, Tatum has played a fundamental role in the development of a program for supporting single mothers attending school as well as an initiative to educate student athletes regarding social responsibility, good digital citizenship and financial literacy. Both programs will launch once Tatum's amateur athlete status expires.

"Jayson Tatum has clearly developed into one of the most complete offensive basketball players in the high school game," said Paul Biancardi, National Director of Recruiting for ESPN Basketball. "His offensive versatility is what makes him special and he's what I like to reference as a four level scorer: He makes 3's, scores with efficiency from the mid-range and finishes in the paint while creating fouls and converting at a high percentage from the line. What's most impressive about Tatum, however, is his desire to put winning above everything else."

Jayson has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Duke University this fall.

"Jayson is an exceptional student-athlete who has earned recognition as the nation's best high school boys basketball player while also excelling in the classroom and making a difference in his community," said Gatorade Chief Marketing Officer Morgan Flatley. "Jayson's statistics on the court speak for themselves, but even more impressive is the impact he has had on his teammates and the example he sets for younger student-athletes. Jayson represents everything we look to celebrate in a Gatorade Player of the Year recipient."

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.

Former notable Gatorade National Players of the Year include:

- Two-time Super Bowl Champion Peyton Manning
- 2015 NBA first overall pick Karl-Anthony Towns
- Three-time WNBA champion Maya Moore
- Four-time track & field gold medalist Allyson Felix
- Silver Medalist and Pro Beach Volleyball Player April Ross
- Three-time Cy Young Award winner Clayton Kershaw

For more information on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of former winners, and future announcement dates, visit the Gatorade Player of the Year website at <http://www.gatorade.com/poy>, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.

ALL-TIME GATORADE NATIONAL BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

YEAR	NAME		HIGH SCHOOL	STATUS
2015-16	Jayson Tatum	F	Chaminade College Prep, St. Louis, MO	High School Senior
2014-15	Ben Simmons	F	Montverde Academy, FL	Louisiana State University
2013-14	Karl-Anthony Towns	C	St. Joseph, Metuchen, NJ	Minnesota Timberwolves
2012-13	Andrew Wiggins	F	St. Joseph's Central Catholic, Huntington, WV	Minnesota Timberwolves
2011-12	Jabari Parker	G	Simeon Career Academy, Chicago, IL	Milwaukee Bucks
2010-11	Bradley Beal	G	Chaminade College Prep, St. Louis, MO	Washington Wizards
2009-10	Brandon Knight	G	Pine Crest School, Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Phoenix Suns
2008-09	Brandon Knight	G	Pine Crest School, Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Phoenix Suns
2007-08	Jrue Holiday	G	Campbell Hall, North Hollywood, CA	New Orleans Pelicans
2006-07	Kevin Love	C	Lake Oswego, Lake Oswego, OR	Cleveland Cavaliers
2005-06	Greg Oden	C	Lawrence North, Indianapolis, IN	Jiangsu Dragons (China)
2004-05	Greg Oden	C	Lawrence North, Indianapolis, IN	Jiangsu Dragons (China)
2003-04	Dwight Howard	F/C	SW Atlanta Christian Academy, Atlanta, GA	Houston Rockets
2002-03	LeBron James	G/F	St. Vincent-St. Mary, Akron, OH	Cleveland Cavaliers
2001-02	LeBron James	G/F	St. Vincent-St. Mary, Akron, OH	Cleveland Cavaliers
2000-01	Kelvin Torbert	G	Northwestern Edison, Flint, MI	Retired Pro
1999-00	Jared Jeffries	F/C	North, Bloomington, IN	Denver Nuggets Staff
1998-99	LaVell Blanchard	F	Pioneer, Ann Arbor, MI	Manati (Puerto Rico)
1997-98	Al Harrington	C	St. Patrick, Elizabeth, NJ	Retired Pro
1996-97	Baron Davis	G	Crossroads, Santa Monica, CA	NBA Free Agent
1995-96	Kobe Bryant	G	Lower Merion, Ardmore, PA	Los Angeles Lakers
1994-95	Stephon Marbury	G	Abraham Lincoln, Brooklyn, NY	Beijing Ducks
1993-94	Felipe Lopez	G	Rice, New York, NY	Retired from NBA
1992-93	Randy Livingston	G	Isidore Newman School, New Orleans, LA	Retired from NBA
1991-92	Corliss Williamson	C	Russellville, Russellville, AR	Sacramento Kings Staff
1990-91	Chris Webber	C	Detroit Country Day, Birmingham, MI	Retired from NBA
1989-90	Damon Bailey	G	Bedford North Lawrence, Bedford, IN	Butler Women's Staff
1988-89	Kenny Anderson	G	Archbishop Molloy, Jamaica, NY	Retired from NBA
1987-88	Alonzo Mourning	C	Indian River, Chesapeake, VA	Retired from NBA
1986-87	LaBradford Smith	G	Bay City, Bay City, TX	Retired from NBA
1985-86	J.R. Reid	C	Kempsville, Virginia Beach, VA	Patrick Henry Staff