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**CLARKSTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE® MICHIGAN BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 8, 2018) — In its 33<sup>rd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Foster Loyer of Clarkston High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Michigan Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Loyer is the second Gatorade Michigan Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Clarkston 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 field, distinguishes Loyer as Michigan'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, Loyer joins an elite alumni association of past state boys basketball award winners, including Karl-Anthony Towns (2012-13 & 2013-14, St. Joseph HS, N.J.), Dwight Howard (2003-04, SW Atlanta Christian Academy, Ga.), Chris Bosh (2001-02, Lincoln HS, Texas), Paul Pierce (1994-95, Inglewood HS, Calif.), Chauncey Billups (1993-94 & 1994-95, George Washington HS, Colo.) and Jason Kidd (1991-92, St. Joseph Notre Dame HS, Calif.).

The 6-foot, 170-pound senior guard had led the Wolves to a 19-1 season and a berth in the Class A regional semifinals at the time of his selection. The year after helping lead the Wolves to the Class A state championship, Loyer averaged 26 points, six assists, 3.9 steals and 3.5 rebounds through 20 games to go with robust shooting accuracy of 52 percent from inside the arc, 51 percent from 3-point range and 91 percent from the free throw line. The four-time Class A All-State standout and 2,000-point career scorer solidified himself as a finalist for Michigan Mr. Basketball.

A youth basketball coach and referee, Loyer is also a youth group leader at Clarkston United Methodist Church and an academic tutor to underclassmen at his high school. "Foster's a beast," said Todd Negoshian, head coach at North Farmington High. "I've coached against him twice a year for four years. He's a great kid who will represent Gatorade correctly. Hands down, he's head and shoulders above everybody else for this award. Foster is one of the best players this state has seen."

Loyer has maintained a weighted 3.94 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at Michigan 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 Player of the Year Selection Committee, 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.

Loyer joins recent Gatorade Michigan Boys Basketball Players of the Year Isaiah Livers (2016-17, Kalamazoo Central High School), Cassius Winston (2015-16, University of Detroit Jesuit High School), Deyonta Davis (2014-15, Muskegon High School), Yante Maten (2013-14, Bloomfield Hills High School), Derrick Walton Jr. (2012-13, Chandler Park Academy), Matt Costello (2011-12 & 2010-11, Bay City Western High School), Ray McCallum (2009-10 & 2008-09, Detroit Country Day School), Brad Redford (2007-08, Frankenmuth High School), and Corperryale 'Manny' Harris (2006-07, Redford) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Foster will be able to select a national or local youth sports organization to receive a grant as part of the Gatorade Play It Forward program. Every Gatorade Player of the Year state winner receives a \$1,000 grant to donate and will have the opportunity to enter for an additional \$10,000 spotlight grant by writing a brief essay explaining why their selected organization deserves additional support. 12 spotlight grants - one for each sport - will be announced throughout the year.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow the conversation on Twitter #GatoradePOY. 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 <http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com/>.

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