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JOHN MARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE® MINNESOTA BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (March 15, 2019) — In its 34th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Matthew Hurt of John Marshall High School as its 2018-19 Gatorade Minnesota Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Hurt is the first Gatorade Minnesota Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from John Marshall 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 Hurt as Minnesota'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, Hurt joins an elite alumni association of past state boys basketball award winners, including Karl-Anthony Towns (2012-13 & 2013-14, St. Joseph High School, N.J.), Dwight Howard (2003-04, Southwest Atlanta Christian Academy, Ga.), Chris Bosh (2001-02, Lincoln High School, Texas), Paul Pierce (1994-95, Inglewood High School, Calif.), Chauncey Billups (1993-94 & 1994-95, George Washington High School, Colo.) and Jason Kidd (1991-92, St. Joseph Notre Dame High School, Calif.).

The 6-foot-9, 215-pound senior forward had led the Rockets to a 22-6 record and a berth in the Section 1AAAA Tournament championship game at the time of his selection. Hurt averaged 37.1 points, 12.4 rebounds, 4.8 assists, 1.8 steals and 1.8 blocks through 28 games. He opened his postseason with a triple-double—41 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists—in a win over Rochester Century High. A McDonald's All-American and finalist for the state's Mr. Basketball, he entered the sectional final with 3,789 points and 1,451 rebounds in his prep basketball career.

Hurt has volunteered locally with the Salvation Army and as a youth basketball coach. He has also donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through his church youth group. "Matthew is a special player," said Drew Olinger, head coach of Red Wing High. "His combination of size, athletic ability and basketball skills make him one of the best, if not the best player, to ever come out of Minnesota. He has great vision and very rarely does he make a poor basketball decision."

Hurt has maintained a 3.11 GPA in the classroom. He remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Hurt joins Gatorade Minnesota Boys Basketball Players of the Year Tre Jones (2017-18 & 2016-17, Apple Valley High School), Gary Trent Jr. (2015-16, Apple Valley High School), and J.T. Gibson (2014-15, Champlin Park High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Hurt also has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of his choosing. He is also eligible to submit an essay to win one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants for the organization of choice, which will be announced throughout the year.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit www.Gatorade.com/POY, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.

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