

Contact: Kelsey Rhoney (312-729- 3685)

**LOOMIS CHAFFEE SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® CONNECTICUT BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 8, 2018) — In its 33rd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Jaiden Delaire of Loomis Chaffee School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Connecticut Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Delaire is the first Gatorade Connecticut Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Loomis Chaffee 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 Delaire as Connecticut'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, Delaire 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-9, 210-pound junior guard/forward led the Pelicans to a 17-7 record and the New England Preparatory School Athletic Council Class A tournament. Delaire averaged 21.3 points, 7.4 rebounds and 2.5 assists per game. The state's top recruit in his class according to ESPN, Delaire was a Second-Team All-New England Class A selection as a sophomore.

A Loomis Chaffee tour guide for prospective students, Delaire has also volunteered locally with the Special Olympics and has entered the school campaign to be voted as a Residential Advisor for the upperclassmen dorm on campus. "Jaiden has that one intangible that (2002-03 Gatorade Connecticut Player of the Year) Timmy Abromaitis," said Kevin Kehoe, head coach at Cheshire Academy. "Everything he's going to do, he's going to do really well. And he'll be humble about everything he does."

Delaire has maintained a 3.47 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school in the 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.

Delaire joins recent Gatorade Connecticut Boys Basketball Players of the Year Tremont Waters (2016-17, Notre Dame High School), Matthew Moyer (2015-16, South Kent School), Steven Enoch (2014-15, St. Thomas More School), Alex Wolf (2013-14, Greenwich High School), Kurt Steidl (2012-13, Ridgefield High School), Kris Dunn (2011-12, New London High School), Andre Drummond (2010-11, St. Thomas More High School), Brandon Sherrod (2009-10, Stratford High School), Greg DeSantis (2008-09, Notre Dame Catholic High School), Allan Chaney (2007-08, New London High School), and Matthew Bryan-Amaning (2006-07, South Kent School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Jaiden 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/>.