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**COVINGTON CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® KENTUCKY 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 CJ Fredrick of Covington Catholic High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Kentucky Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Fredrick is the first Gatorade Kentucky Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Covington Catholic 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 Fredrick as Kentucky'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, Fredrick 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-4, 180-pound senior guard had led the Colonels to a 31-4 record and a berth in the first round of the state tournament at the time of his selection. Fredrick averaged 22.5 points, 4.0 assists, 3.3 rebounds and 1.2 steals through 35 games, connecting on 48.3 percent of his 3-point attempts (97-of-201) and setting the school's single-season scoring record with 789 points. He is a two-time Northern Kentucky Coaches Association Division 1 All-Conference selection and the two-time 35th District Tournament Most Outstanding Player.

A member of the Covington Catholic Select Choir, Fredrick has volunteered locally on behalf of a soup kitchen and as a youth basketball coach. "Fredrick is a knock-down shooter and has the ability to get by you," said Ken Collopy, head coach of Newport Catholic Central High. "He is so efficient with the basketball. He makes very few mistakes, and when you make one, it typically costs you."

Fredrick has maintained a 3.15 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Iowa 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.

Fredrick joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Boys Basketball Players of the Year Taveion Hollingsworth (2016-17, Paul Laurence Dunbar High School), Quentin Goodin (2015-16, Taylor County High School), Camron Justice (2014-15, Knott County Central High School), Quentin Snider (2013-14, Ballard High School), Dominique Hawkins (2012-13, Madison Central High School), Nathan Dieudonne (2011-12, Trinity High School), Timmy Knipp (2010-11, Elliott County High School), Elisha Justice (2009-10, Shelby Valley High School), Jon Hood (2008-09, Madisonville North Hopkins High School), Darius Miller (2007-08, Mason County High School), and Steffphon Pettigrew (2006-07, Elizabethtown High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, CJ 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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