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**HUDSON CATHOLIC REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® NEW JERSEY 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 Jahvon Quinerly of Hudson Catholic Regional High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade New Jersey Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Quinerly was the first Gatorade New Jersey Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Hudson Catholic Regional High School when he won the 2016-17 award.

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 Quinerly as New Jersey'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, Quinerly 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-2, 170-pound senior guard led the Hawks to a 21-5 record and the Hudson County Tournament championship this past season. The state's returning Gatorade Boys Basketball Player of the Year, Quinerly averaged 18.5 points, 5.8 assists, 3.4 rebounds and 1.7 steals per game. A First Team All-State selection, he was also named to the Hoophall Classic All-Tournament Team and was chosen to play in the McDonald's All-American Game.

Quinerly has volunteered locally on behalf of youth basketball programs and food donation drives. "Jahvon Quinerly is a great player having a great season," said Alex Mirabel, head coach at St. Peter's Prep. "The bigger the moment, the better he plays. I'm glad I don't have to see him again."

Quinerly has maintained an A-minus average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Villanova 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.

Two-time winner Quinerly joins Gatorade New Jersey Boys Basketball Players of the Year Tyus Battle (2015-16, St. Joseph High School), Malachi Richardson (2014-15, Trenton Catholic Academy), Karl Towns Jr. (2013-14 & 2012-13, St. Joseph High School), Tyler Ennis (2011-12, St. Benedict's Prep.), Michael Gilchrist (2010-11 & 2008-09, St. Patrick High School), Kyrie Irving (2009-10, St. Patrick), Samardo Samuels (2007-08, St. Benedict's Prep.), and Corey Fisher (2006-07, St. Patrick) among the state's list of former award winners.

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