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**OAK HILL ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE® VIRGINIA 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 Keldon Johnson of Oak Hill Academy as its 2017-18 Gatorade Virginia Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Johnson is the tenth Gatorade Virginia Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Oak Hill Academy.

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 Johnson as Virginia'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, Johnson 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-6, 205-pound senior small forward has led the Warriors to a 42-1 record and a berth in the GEICO High School Basketball Nationals, scheduled to begin March 29. At the time of his selection, Johnson averaged 22.1 points, 7.2 rebounds, 4.5 assists and 2.2 steals through 43 games. A McDonald's All-American Game honoree, he was one of 10 semifinalists for the Naismith Prep Player of the Year and is ranked as the nation's No. 7 prospect in the Class of 2018 by ESPN.

A dorm leader at Oak Hill, Johnson has volunteered locally with multiple community service initiatives through his church. "Keldon is tough, very athletic and competes on every possession," said Jeff Depelteau, head coach of Christ School in North Carolina. "His explosiveness makes him very unique. He can really take over games on the defensive end and finish well through contact."

Johnson has maintained a 3.71 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Kentucky beginning 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.

Johnson joins recent Gatorade Virginia Boys Basketball Players of the Year Matt Coleman (2016-17, Oak Hill Academy), V.J. King (2015-16, Paul VI Catholic High School), Dwayne Bacon (2014-15, Oak Hill Academy), Thon Maker (2013-14, Carlisle School), Troy Williams (2012-13, Oak Hill Academy), Tyler Lewis (2011-12, Oak Hill Academy), James McAdoo (2010-11 & 2009-10, Norfolk Christian High School), Keith 'Tiny' Gallon (2008-09, Oak Hill Academy), Brandon Jennings (2007-08, Oak Hill Academy), and Nolan Smith (2006-07, Oak Hill Academy) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Keldon 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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