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**OSHKOSH NORTH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® WISCONSIN 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 Tyrese Haliburton of Oshkosh North High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Wisconsin Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Haliburton is the second Gatorade Wisconsin Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Oshkosh North 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 Haliburton as Wisconsin'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, Haliburton 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-5, 175-pound senior guard had led the Spartans to a 23-1 record and a berth in the Division 1 sectional semifinals at the time of his selection. Haliburton averaged 23.2 points, 6.3 assists, 5.2 rebounds and 3.7 steals through 24 games, converting 68.6 percent of his field goal attempts. A First Team All-State honoree, he was also named the Fox Valley Association Player of the Year as a junior.

A member of his school's Student Council and Link Crew, Haliburton has volunteered locally on behalf of a peer mentoring program, an elementary school literacy outreach initiative and youth basketball programs. "What impresses me most about Haliburton is his unselfish play and how he makes everyone around him better," said Mark Ziebell, head coach at Fond du Lac High. "He has great size and athleticism, he can create for himself and others and he shoots the ball at a very high rate. He's also a really good defender, applying a lot of pressure with that length and doing a great job of anticipating."

Haliburton has maintained a 3.68 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Iowa State 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.

Haliburton joins recent Gatorade Wisconsin Boys Basketball Players of the Year Kobe King (2016-17, La Crosse Central High School), Sam Hauser (2015-16, Stevens Point Area Senior High School), Henry Ellenson (2014-15, Rice Lake High School), Kevon Looney (2013-14, Hamilton High School), Luke Fischer (2012-13, Germantown High School), Sam Dekker (2011-12, Sheboygan Lutheran High School), Paul Jespersion (2010-11, Merrill High School), Josh Gasser (2009-10, Port Washington High School), Ben Averkamp (2008-09, Germantown High School), Kwamain Mitchell (2007-08, Dominican High School), and Tim Jarmusz (2006-07, Oshkosh West High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Tyrese 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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