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## **BETTENDORF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE® IOWA BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (March 15, 2019) — In its 34<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **D.J. Carton of Bettendorf High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Iowa Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Carton is the first Gatorade Iowa Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bettendorf 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 Carton as Iowa'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, Carton joins an elite alumni association of past state boys basketball award winners, including Karl-Anthony Towns (2012-13 & 2013-14, St. Joseph High School, N.J.), Dwight Howard (2003-04, Southwest Atlanta Christian Academy, Ga.), Chris Bosh (2001-02, Lincoln High School, Texas), Paul Pierce (1994-95, Inglewood High School, Calif.), Chauncey Billups (1993-94 & 1994-95, George Washington High School, Colo.) and Jason Kidd (1991-92, St. Joseph Notre Dame High School, Calif.).

The 6-foot-1, 190-pound senior guard led the Bulldogs to a 21-2 record and the Class 4A sub-state finals this past season. Carton averaged 24.4 points, 7.6 rebounds, 6.0 assists and 1.3 steals per game. A two-time First Team All-State selection and a three-time All-Conference honoree, he is ranked as the nation's No. 23 recruit in the Class of 2019 by 247Sports.com.

Carton has volunteered locally on behalf of a homeless shelter, the Special Olympics, youth sports programs and the Make-A-Wish Foundation. "D.J. Carton is an unbelievable talent, one of the most explosive players that I've ever seen in my 20 years here," said Chris Robertson, head coach at Linn-Mar High School. "He has the unique ability to take his game to another level when needed."

Carton has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Ohio 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.

Carton joins Gatorade Iowa Boys Basketball Players of the Year Joe Wieskamp (2017-18 & 2016-17, Muscatine High School), Jordan Bohannon (2015-16, Linn-Mar High School), and Spencer Haldeman (2014-15, Western Dubuque High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Carton also has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of his choosing. He is also eligible to submit an essay to win one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants for the organization of choice, which will be announced throughout the year.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit [www.Gatorade.com/POY](http://www.Gatorade.com/POY), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](https://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).

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