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Contact: Kisa Mugwanya (312-729- 3670)
GatoradePOYQuestions@Fleishman.com

KENNEDY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE® PENNSYLVANIA BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (March 15, 2019) — In its 34th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Oscar Tshiebwe of Kennedy Catholic High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Tshiebwe is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Kennedy 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 Tshiebwe as Pennsylvania'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, Tshiebwe 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-9, 252-pound senior center had led the Golden Eagles to a 23-3 record and the second round of the Class 6A state tournament at the time of his selection. Through 26 games, Tshiebwe averaged 23.4 points, 18 rebounds and five blocks per game. A First Team All-State selection, he was chosen to play in the McDonald's All-American Game and is ranked as the nation's No. 20 recruit in the Class of 2019 by 247Sports.com.

A devoted member of his church community, Tshiebwe has volunteered locally feeding the homeless. "Oscar Tshiebwe is an absolute beast," said Tom Koval, head coach at Erie High. "No one can stay with him, strength-wise or motor-wise. He can overpower most people, but he's got great skills too, and he plays so hard, from baseline to baseline."

Tshiebwe has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at West Virginia 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.

Tshiebwe joins Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Basketball Players of the Year Robby Carmody (2017-18, Mars Area High School), Mohamed Bamba (2016-17, Westtown School), Lonnie Walker (2015-16, Reading High School), and Levan Shawn Alston (2014-15, The Haverford School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Tshiebwe 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, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.

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