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**ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE® RHODE ISLAND 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 **Tyler Kolek of St. George's School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Kolek is the first Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from St. George's 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 Kolek as Rhode Island'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, Kolek 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-2, 180-pound junior guard averaged 18.6 points, 8.4 rebounds, 2.8 assists and 2.5 steals per game this past season, leading the Dragons (16-9) to the New England Prep School Athletic Council Class B Tournament quarterfinals. A transfer from Cumberland High, where he was an All-State selection a year ago, Kolek was the MVP of the Independent School League and a NEPSAC Class B All-Star this season.

Kolek has volunteered locally with the Boys and Girls Club and as a youth basketball coach. "Tyler Kolek is a stud," said Lamar Reddicks, head coach of Milton Academy. "He can score at all three levels. He's a very dangerous shooter with an extremely quick release. The bigger the game, the better he played."

Kolek has maintained a B average in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade award's broad criteria. He will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Kolek joins Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Basketball Players of the Year Brycen Goodine (2017-18, St. Andrew's School), Cole Swider (2016-17, St. Andrew's School), Justin Mazzulla (2015-16, Bishop Hendricken High School), and Corey Daugherty (2014-15, Barrington High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Kolek 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](http://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](http://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).

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