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**BENTONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ARKANSAS BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 17, 2016) — In its 31st year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Malik Monk of Bentonville High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Arkansas Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Monk is the first Gatorade Arkansas Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bentonville 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 court, distinguishes Monk as Arkansas'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, Monk joins an elite alumni association of past state boys basketball award winners, including Dwight Howard (2003-04, SW Atlanta Christian Academy, Ga.), Chauncey Billups (1993-94 & 1994-95, George Washington HS, Colo.), Jason Kidd (1991-92, St. Joseph Notre Dame HS, Calif.), Paul Pierce (1994-95, Inglewood HS, Calif.) and Chris Bosh (2001-02, Lincoln HS, Texas).

The 6-foot-4, 190-pound senior guard led the Tigers to a 21-9 record and the Class 7A state championship game this past season. Monk averaged 28.6 points, 7.5 rebounds and 4.4 assists per game. The USA TODAY American Family Insurance ALL-USA Arkansas Player of the Year as a junior, he has been selected to play in the Jordan Brand Classic and the McDonald's All-American games. Monk is also a First Team All-Arkansas honoree and was named a Second Team Naismith Trophy All-American.

Monk has maintained a B average in the classroom. A member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, he has volunteered locally serving Thanksgiving meals to the needy and assisting at youth basketball camps.

"Monk does spectacular things on a basketball court," said Jeremy Price, head coach at Springdale High. "He's got NBA level athleticism and he has a great ability to create his own shot. He can elevate and shoot from anywhere on the floor and all you can do is hope that he misses."

Monk has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Kentucky 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 high school sports leadership team in partnership with [USA TODAY High School Sports](#), 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.

Monk joins recent Gatorade Arkansas Boys Basketball Players of the Year Kevaughn Allen (2014-15 & 2013-14, North Little Rock High School), Bobby Portis (2012-13, Hall High School), Archie Goodwin (2011-12 & 2010-11, Sylvan Hills High School), Preston Purifoy (2009-10, Conway High School), Fred Gulley (2008-09 & 2007-08, Fayetteville High School), and James Anderson (2006-07, Junction City High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. 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 www.gatorade.com/poy.

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