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**GONZAGA COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 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 Chris Lykes of Gonzaga College High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Lykes is the eighth Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Gonzaga College 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 Lykes as District of Columbia'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, Lykes 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 5-foot-8, 155-pound junior point guard averaged 22.0 points, 4.3 assists, 3.7 rebounds and 2.7 steals per game this past season, leading the Eagles (24-10) to the semifinals in both the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference and District of Columbia State Athletic Association. Also the WCAC Player of the Year, Lykes shot 47.3 percent from 3-point range and 74.9 percent from the free-throw line. A returning Honorable Mention All-Met selection as named by The Washington Post, he averaged 9.0 points, 2.0 rebounds, 1.6 assists and 1.5 steals for Team Takeover in Nike's 2015 Elite Youth Basketball League.

Lykes has maintained a 3.28 GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating his time as a youth basketball instructor, he has volunteered at his church, as a peer tutor and on behalf of the National Foundation for Cancer Research.

"Chris is a great leader," said Gonzaga head coach Steve Turner. "He leads by example as well as being vocal. He is the kid who will always outwork the guy in front of him. Being a small guy, he understands that a lot of times the cards are stacked against him, but he always finds a way to finish on top."

Lykes 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 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.

Lykes joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Basketball Players of the Year Bryant Crawford (2014-15, Gonzaga College High School), Johnnie Shuler (2013-14, Roosevelt High School), Kris Jenkins (2012-13 & 2011-12, Gonzaga College High School), Nate Britt (2010-11, Gonzaga College High School), Tyler Thornton (2009-10, Gonzaga College High School), Ian Hummer (2008-09, Gonzaga College High School), Max Kenyi (2007-08, Gonzaga College High School), and Chris Wright (2006-07, St. John's College 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.