

**Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3656)**

**BARTOW HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® FLORIDA BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 17, 2016) — In its 31<sup>st</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Tony Bradley of Bartow High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Florida Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Bradley is the first Gatorade Florida Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bartow 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 Bradley as Florida'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, Bradley 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-10, 250-pound senior power forward averaged 22.8 points and 12.6 rebounds per game while shooting 64.8 percent from inside the arc this past season, leading the Yellow Jackets (19-10) to the Class 7A regional final. A 2016 Jordan Brand Classic and McDonald's All-American Game selection, Bradley was named Florida's statewide 2016 Mr. Basketball.

Bradley has maintained a 3.61 in the classroom. An accomplished percussionist and a member of the National Honor Society, he has volunteered locally as a youth basketball coach.

"I would emphatically say that Tony Bradley embodies the qualifications you would look for in a student-athlete," said Michael Soliven, head coach at Melbourne High. "He is talented, intelligent, classy and articulate. He is arguably the best all-around student-athlete I have had the pleasure of coaching against."

Bradley has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of North Carolina 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.

Bradley joins recent Gatorade Florida Boys Basketball Players of the Year Ben Simmons (2014-15, Montverde Academy), Joel Berry (2013-14, 2012-13 & 2011-12, Lake Highland Preparatory School), Austin Rivers (2010-11, Winter Park High School), Brandon Knight (2009-10 & 2008-09, Pine Crest School), Ray Shipman (2007-08, Monsignor Pace High School), and Nick Calathes (2006-07, Lake Howell 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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