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**UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MICHIGAN 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 Cassius Winston of University of Detroit Jesuit High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Michigan Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Winston is the first Gatorade Michigan Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from University of Detroit Jesuit 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 Winston as Michigan'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, Winston 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).

At the time of his selection, the 6-foot-1, 180-pound senior point guard had led the Cubs to a 24-0 record and a berth in the Class A regional final. Winston averaged 23.6 points, 6.7 assists and 5.2 rebounds per game while shooting 87 percent from the free throw line through 24 games. A 2016 Michigan Mr. Basketball finalist and a 2016 Jordan Brand Classic game invitee, he has helped University of Detroit Jesuit to a No. 6 ranking in the USA TODAY Super 25 Expert Rankings.

Winston has maintained a 3.56 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of a soup kitchen and as a peer mentor and in association with the Black Awareness Society for Education.

"Cassius Winston has revitalized our basketball program," said University of Detroit Jesuit High head coach Patrick Donnelly. "He is a tireless worker that is constantly looking to perfect his craft. His leadership skills are second to none."

Winston has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Michigan State 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 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.

Winston joins recent Gatorade Michigan Boys Basketball Players of the Year Deyonta Davis (2014-15, Muskegon High School), Yante Maten (2013-14, Bloomfield Hills High School), Derrick Walton Jr. (2012-13, Chandler Park Academy), Matt Costello (2011-12 & 2010-11, Bay City Western High School), Ray McCallum (2009-10 & 2008-09, Detroit Country Day School), Brad Redford (2007-08, Frankenmuth High School), and Corperryale 'Manny' Harris (2006-07, Redford 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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