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**APPLE VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MINNESOTA 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 Gary Trent Jr. of Apple Valley High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Minnesota Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Trent Jr. is the third Gatorade Minnesota Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Apple Valley 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 Trent Jr. as Minnesota'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, Trent Jr. 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-6, 202-pound junior guard averaged 26.4 points, 5.8 rebounds, 2.1 assists and 1.8 steals per game this past season, leading the Eagles (29-2) to the Class AAAA state semifinals. A First Team All-Metro selection as named by the Minneapolis Star Tribune, Trent shot 52.7 percent from the field, 40.7 percent from 3-point range and 82.5 percent from the free-throw line. He led Apple Valley to the 2015 Class AAAA state championship as a sophomore, capturing All-Tournament honors. A member of the 2015-16 USA Basketball Men's Junior National Team, he averaged a team-high 16.8 points along with 2.8 rebounds during the U16 National Team's run to the 2015 FIBA Americas U16 Championship.

Trent has maintained a B average in the classroom. In addition to donating his time as a youth basketball instructor, he has volunteered locally on behalf of Feed My Starving Children and as part of a youth literacy-outreach program.

"Gary is an unbelievable talent," said Matt Eppen, head coach at rival Burnsville High. "He can score inside and out, and gets to the basket like no one I have seen. He is truly a great talent."

Trent 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.

Trent Jr. joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Boys Basketball Players of the Year J.T. Gibson (2014-15, Champlin Park High School), Tyus Jones (2013-14, 2012-13 & 2011-12, Apple Valley High School), Joe Coleman (2010-11, Hopkins High School), Kevin Noreen (2009-10, Minnesota Transitions Charter School), Mike Bruesewitz (2008-09, Henry Sibley High School), Jordan Taylor (2007-08, Benilde-St. Margaret's School), and Cole Aldrich (2006-07, Jefferson 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.