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CHAMINADE COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE® MISSOURI 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 Jayson Tatum of Chaminade College Preparatory School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Missouri Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Tatum is the third Gatorade Missouri Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Chaminade College Preparatory 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 Tatum as Missouri'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, Tatum 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-9, 205-pound senior wing has led the Red Devils to a 25-5 record and a berth in the Class 5 semifinals, scheduled for March 17. Tatum averaged 29 points and nine rebounds per game while shooting 61 percent from inside the arc and 86 percent from the free throw line through 30 games. The state's two-time returning Gatorade Boys Basketball Player of the Year, he is also a 2016 McDonald's All-American Game and Jordan Brand Classic selection and has anchored Chaminade's run to the No. 8 ranking in the USA TODAY Super 25 Expert Rankings. Ranked as the nation's No. 2 senior recruit in the ESPN 100, Tatum was a member of the 2015 USA Basketball Men's U19 World Championship Team that won a gold medal at the FIBA U19 World Championship in Heraklion, Greece last summer, averaging 13.9 points and 2.1 assists in seven games.

Tatum has maintained a B average in the classroom. A student ambassador at his school, he has volunteered locally by cooking and serving food for the needy on behalf of the Father Dempsey Charities. Tatum has also donated his time as a guest speaker for at-risk youth in Ferguson and as a coach and instructor at numerous youth basketball camps and clinics. In addition, Tatum has played a fundamental role in the development of a program for supporting single mothers attending school as well as an initiative to educate student athletes regarding social responsibility, good digital citizenship and financial literacy. Both programs will launch once Tatum's amateur athlete status expires.

"Jayson Tatum is quite special and I believe he is the best player in the country," said Lawndale Thomas, head coach at Hazelwood East. "He has the tools to play all five positions on the floor. I haven't seen anybody else around the country that has the skills to do the things he can do."

Tatum has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Duke 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.

Three-time winner Tatum joins Gatorade Missouri Boys Basketball Players of the Year Kyle Wolf (2012-13, Rockhurst High School), Cameron Biedscheid (2011-12, Cardinal Ritter College Preparatory High School), Bradley Beal (2010-11 & 2009-10, Chaminade College Preparatory School), Alec Burks (2008-09, Grandview High School), Kramer Soderberg (2007-08, Saint Charles West High School), and Conner Teahan (2006-07, Rockhurst 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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