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**ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEW JERSEY 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 Tyus Battle of St. Joseph High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade New Jersey Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Battle is the third Gatorade New Jersey Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Joseph 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 Battle as New Jersey'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, Battle 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, 205-pound senior guard led the Falcons to a 22-6 record and the South Jersey Non-Public A championship game this past season. Battle averaged 19.1 points, 9.1 rebounds, 5.1 assists and 2.7 steals per game. A former member of the USA Basketball U17 National Team, he was the Somerset County Player of the Year and a Second Team All-State selection as a sophomore.

Battle has maintained a 3.11 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of the New Beginnings school for autistic children.

"Battle can do pretty much anything on a basketball court," said Edwin Santana, head coach at Perth Amboy High. "He's athletic, strong, a great defender. He can score, he can rebound. He can jump through the building and he's a really good passer too."

Battle has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Syracuse 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.

Battle joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Boys Basketball Players of the Year Malachi Richardson (2014-15, Trenton Catholic Academy), Karl Towns Jr. (2013-14 & 2012-13, St. Joseph High School), Tyler Ennis (2011-12, St. Benedict's Prep. School), Michael Gilchrist (2010-11 & 2008-09, St. Patrick High School), Kyrie Irving (2009-10, St. Patrick High School), Samardo Samuels (2007-08, St. Benedict's Prep School), and Corey Fisher (2006-07, St. Patrick 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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