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**SHENENDEHOWA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEW YORK 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 Kevin Huerter of Shenendehowa High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade New York Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Huerter is the first Gatorade New York Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Shenendehowa 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 Huerter as New York'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, Huerter 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, 175-pound senior point guard led the Plainsmen to a 24-1 record and the Class AA semifinals this past season. Huerter averaged 21.7 points, 7.5 rebounds, 5.7 assists and 2.3 steals per game. New York's Mr. Basketball, Huerter was a Second Team All-State selection as a junior and was named MVP of the 2015 Class AA state tournament.

Huerter has maintained an A average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of an assisted living facility and youth basketball programs.

"Huerter is a hard worker who dominates the game, not just with his scoring, but with his passing," said Rich Hurley, head coach at Troy High. "He has a tremendous (basketball) IQ. He just sees the game at another level. He's a complete basketball player and he's just a nightmare to play against."

Huerter has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Maryland 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.

Huerter joins recent Gatorade New York Boys Basketball Players of the Year Cheick Diallo (2014-15 & 2013-14, Our Savior New American School), Kentan Facey (2012-13, Long Island Lutheran High School), Omar Calhoun (2011-12, Christ the King Regional High School), Achraf Yacoubou (2010-11, Long Island Lutheran High School), Tobias Harris (2009-10, Half Hollow Hills High School West), Brandon Triche (2008-09, Jamesville-DeWitt High School), Sylven Landesberg (2007-08, Holy Cross High School), and Jonny Flynn (2006-07, Niagara Falls 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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