

**Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3656)**

**HIGH POINT CHRISTIAN ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® NORTH CAROLINA BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 17, 2016) — In its 31<sup>st</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Edrice "Bam" Adebayo of High Point Christian Academy as its 2015-16 Gatorade North Carolina Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Adebayo is the first Gatorade North Carolina Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from High Point Christian Academy.

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 Adebayo as North Carolina'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, Adebayo 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-10, 260-pound senior forward averaged 18.9 points, 13.0 rebounds, 1.5 assists, 1.4 blocks and 1.4 steals per game this past season, leading the Cougars (25-6) to the North Carolina Independent Schools Athletic Association Class 3A state championship game. A McDonald's All-American Game and Jordan Brand Classic selection, Adebayo shot 64.3 percent from the field. The 2015 Under Armour Elite 24 MVP, he has also been selected to the 2016 USA Junior National Select Team.

Adebayo has maintained a B average in the classroom. In addition to donating his time as a youth basketball instructor, he has volunteered on behalf of his church's youth group.

"In our games and the games we scouted, he played exceptionally well, had a great on-the-court demeanor and dominated all facets of the game," said Howard West, head coach at rival Forsyth Country Day School. "I really think people are going to enjoy watching him on TV next year."

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

Adebayo joins recent Gatorade North Carolina Boys Basketball Players of the Year Dennis Smith Jr. (2014-15, Trinity Christian School), Keyshawn Woods (2013-14, NorthHigh Schoolide Christian Academy), Isaiah Hicks (2012-13, J.F. Webb High School), Rodney Purvis (2011-12, Upper Room Christian Academy), Marshall Plumlee (2010-11, Christ School), Reggie Bullock (2009-10, Kinston High School), Ryan Kelly (2008-09, Ravenscroft School), and Ty Walker (2007-08 & 2006-07, New Hanover 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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