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**READING HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® PENNSYLVANIA 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 Lonnie Walker of Reading High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Walker is the second Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Reading 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 Walker as Pennsylvania'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, Walker 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-5, 195-pound junior guard had led the Red Knights to a 28-3 record and the semifinals of the Class AAAA state tournament at the time of his selection. Walker averages 16.9 points, 6.2 rebounds, 4.2 assists and 1.7 blocks per game. The two-time Berks Player of the Year, he was a Second Team All-State selection as a sophomore. Walker is ranked as the nation's No. 23 recruit in the Class of 2017 by ESPN.

Walker has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally feeding the homeless and assisting youth basketball programs.

"Walker has very polished skills, a high basketball IQ and insane athletic ability," said Jon Treese, head coach at Muhlenberg High. "He has the ability to get into a zone and completely take a game over."

Walker 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.

Walker joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Basketball Players of the Year Levan Shawn Alston (2014-15, The Haverford School), J.C. Show (2013-14, Abington Heights High School), Steve Vasturia (2012-13, St. Joseph's Preparatory School), Amile Jefferson (2011-12 & 2010-11, Friends' Central School), Tony Chennault (2009-10, Neumann-Goretti High School), Maalik Wayns (2008-09, Roman Catholic High School), Brian Walsh (2007-08, Moon Area High School), and Jeff Jones (2006-07, Monsignor Bonner 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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