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**MEMPHIS EAST HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® TENNESSEE 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 Alex Lomax of Memphis East High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Tennessee Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Lomax is the second Gatorade Tennessee Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Memphis East 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 Lomax as Tennessee'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, Lomax 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 5-foot-11, 170-pound sophomore point guard led the Mustangs to a 29-2 record and a berth in the Class AAA state quarterfinals against Hillsboro High. At the time of his selection, Lomax was averaging 13.2 points, 6.0 assists, 5.0 rebounds and 4.0 steals per game. He is the 2016 TSSAA Class AAA Mr. Basketball winner.

Lomax has maintained a 3.62 GPA in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade award's broad criteria. The winner of Shelby County's JL Perry Leadership Award, he is a member of the Memphis East Poetry Club. He has also volunteered locally with Peer Power, an after-school tutoring program, and serves as a youth basketball coach.

"Alex Lomax is the engine that makes East High run smoothly," said Antonio Harris, head coach of B.T. Washington High. "He is an outstanding floor general that keeps all of his teammates at ease and makes sure that all of them are in place. He makes the game seem so effortless with his poise during the challenging times."

Lomax will begin his junior 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.

Lomax joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Boys Basketball Players of the Year Dedric Lawson (2014-15, Hamilton High School), Leron Black (2013-14, White Station High School), Austin Nichols (2012-13, Briarcrest Christian High School), Alex Poythress (2011-12, Northeast High School), Adonis Thomas (2010-11, Melrose High School), Joe Jackson (2009-10, White Station High School), John Jenkins (2008-09, Station Camp High School), Leslie McDonald (2007-08, Briarcrest Christian School), and Maurice Miller (2006-07, Raleigh-Egypt 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.