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**CYPRESS LAKES HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® TEXAS 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 De'Aaron Fox of Cypress Lakes High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Texas Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Fox is the first Gatorade Texas Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Cypress Lakes 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 Fox as Texas'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, Fox 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-4, 165-pound senior guard averaged 32.4 points, 7.7 rebounds, 4.2 assists, 2.7 steals and 1.6 blocks per game this past season, leading the Spartans (25-8) to the Class 6A, Region 3 championship game. A finalist for the Naismith Trophy Boys Basketball Player of the Year, Fox was selected to participate in both the McDonald's All-American Game and the Jordan Brand Classic. He concluded his prep basketball career with 3,113 points.

Fox has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on a fundraising campaign to benefit breast cancer research and as an elementary school mentor and motivational speaker.

"De'Aaron is as complete a player as I've ever coached against," said Chris Draudt, head coach of Cypress Woods High. "He scored when he needed to in order to help his team win, but he spent a lot of his time working hard to get his teammates involved in every way possible."

Fox 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.

Fox joins recent Gatorade Texas Boys Basketball Players of the Year Admon Gilder (2014-15, James Madison High School), Justise Winslow (2013-14 & 2012-13, St. John's School), Marcus Smart (2011-12 & 2010-11, Marcus High School), Joseph Young (2009-10, Yates High School), Tommy Mason-Griffin (2008-09, Madison High School), Willie Warren (2007-08, North Crowley High School), and Gary Johnson (2006-07, Aldine 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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