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**PAUL VI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® VIRGINIA 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 V.J. King of Paul VI Catholic High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Virginia Boys Basketball Player of the Year. King is the first Gatorade Virginia Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Paul VI Catholic 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 King as Virginia'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, King 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-7, 179-pound senior small forward averaged 22.9 points, 9.6 rebounds, 2.5 assists and 2.1 steals per game this past season, leading the Panthers (20-11) to the Virginia Independent Schools Athletic Association Division I state championship game. A First Team All-Washington Catholic Athletic Conference honoree, King was selected to participate in the McDonald's All-American Game and the Jordan Brand Classic. He is ranked as the No. 21 recruit in the Class of 2016 by Scout.com.

King has maintained a 3.54 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth mentor and youth basketball coach, and has also donated his time with the Special Olympics and special-needs students at his school.

"V.J. King is a terrific player, he has a chance to be a pro," said Neil Berkman, head coach of Bishop Ireton High. "He was Paul VI's entire team. It seemed like he took 60 percent of their shots."

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

King joins recent Gatorade Virginia Boys Basketball Players of the Year Dwayne Bacon (2014-15, Oak Hill Academy), Thon Maker (2013-14, Carlisle School), Troy Williams (2012-13, Oak Hill Academy), Tyler Lewis (2011-12, Oak Hill Academy), James McAdoo (2010-11 & 2009-10, Norfolk Christian High School), Keith 'Tiny' Gallon (2008-09, Oak Hill Academy), Brandon Jennings (2007-08, Oak Hill Academy), and Nolan Smith (2006-07, Oak Hill Academy) 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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