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**ST. GEORGES TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® DELAWARE BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 20, 2017) — In its 32nd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Kyson Rawls of St. Georges Technical High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Delaware Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Rawls is the first Gatorade Delaware Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Georges Technical 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 Rawls as Delaware'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, Rawls joins an elite alumni association of past state boys basketball award winners, including Karl-Anthony Towns (2012-13 & 2013-14, St. Joseph HS, N.J.), Dwight Howard (2003-04, SW Atlanta Christian Academy, Ga.), Chris Bosh (2001-02, Lincoln HS, Texas), Paul Pierce (1994-95, Inglewood HS, Calif.), Chauncey Billups (1993-94 & 1994-95, George Washington HS, Colo.) and Jason Kidd (1991-92, St. Joseph Notre Dame HS, Calif.).

The 6-foot-1, 195 senior point guard averaged 22.6 points, 5.6 assists and 4.7 rebounds per game while shooting 50 percent from inside the arc this past season, leading the Hawks (19-5) to the state semifinals. A First Team All-State selection, Rawls led his team to four consecutive Blue Hen Conference titles in his prep career.

Rawls has volunteered locally serving Thanksgiving meals at a homeless shelter, as a peer tutor and as a youth basketball coach and camp counselor. "Kyson Rawls is a highly intelligent player with unlimited potential to compete at the collegiate level," said St. Georges Tech head coach Rod Griffin. "He plays hard all the time and is counted on to score and provide leadership for his teammates. He has had an amazing high school career."

Rawls has maintained a B average in the classroom. He remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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 Player of the Year Selection Committee, 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.

Rawls joins recent Gatorade Delaware Boys Basketball Players of the Year Jordan Allen (2015-16, Dover High School), DeVaughn Mallory (2014-15, Polytech High School), Brian O'Neill (2013-14, Salesianum School), Sabri Thompson (2012-13, Sanford School), Eric Laster (2011-12, Polytech High School), Tim Massado (2010-11, St. Elizabeth High School), Corey Crawford (2009-10, Dover High School), Paul Reynolds (2008-09, Smyrna High School), Eriq Gumbs (2007-08, Caravel Academy), and Jarrett Mann (2006-07, Middletown High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Kyson will be able to select a national or local youth sports organization to receive a grant as part of the Gatorade Play It Forward program. Every Gatorade Player of the Year state winner receives a \$1,000 grant to donate and will have the opportunity to enter for an additional \$10,000 spotlight grant by writing a brief essay explaining why their selected organization deserves additional support. 12 spotlight grants - one for each sport - will be announced throughout the year.

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.