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**MUSCATINE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® IOWA 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 Joe Wieskamp of Muscatine High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Iowa Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Wieskamp is the first Gatorade Iowa Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Muscatine 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 Wieskamp as Iowa'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, Wieskamp 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-6, 185-pound junior guard averaged 30.4 points, 10.2 rebounds and 2.5 assists per game while shooting 56 percent from the floor this past season, leading the Muskies (17-8) to the Class 4A sub-state final. A First Team All-State selection and the 2016-17 Mississippi Athletic Conference Player of the Year, Wieskamp scored at least 40 points in a game four times this season and notched a school-record 50 points in a win in December.

A member of the National Honor Society and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Wieskamp has contributed to his school newspaper and yearbook staff. "In my 15 years of coaching in the area, plus growing up and playing here, I have never seen a player as talented as Joe Wieskamp," said Shamus Budde, head coach at North Scott High. "He is an impossible matchup when you put his skills with his size, but the most impressive parts of his game are his pace, unselfishness and a killer instinct. Those are things you can't teach or coach."

Wieskamp has maintained a 3.86 GPA in the classroom. He has made a verbal commitment to play basketball at University of Iowa on scholarship beginning in the fall of 2018.

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.

Wieskamp joins recent Gatorade Iowa Boys Basketball Players of the Year Jordan Bohannon (2015-16, Linn-Mar High School), Spencer Haldeman (2014-15, Western Dubuque High School), Wyatt Lohaus (2013-14, Iowa City West High School), Jeremy Morgan (2012-13, Iowa City West High School), Marcus Paige (2011-12, Linn-Mar High School), Jarrod Uthoff (2010-11, Jefferson High School), Harrison Barnes (2009-10 & 2008-09, Ames High School), Matt Gatens (2007-08, City High School), and Brent Barz (2006-07, Johnston High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Joe 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.