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**PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE® KENTUCKY BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 20, 2017) — In its 32<sup>nd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Taveion Hollingsworth of Paul Laurence Dunbar High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Kentucky Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Hollingsworth is the first Gatorade Kentucky Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Paul Laurence Dunbar 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 Hollingsworth as Kentucky'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, Hollingsworth 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-3, 165-pound senior guard averaged 28.3 points, 6.8 rebounds, 3.9 assists and 3.1 steals per game this past season, leading the Bulldogs (21-9) to the 43rd District tournament semifinals. A First Team All-State selection as a junior, Hollingsworth was the MVP of the 2016 Sweet Sixteen State Tournament after leading Dunbar to the state title. He concluded his prep basketball career with a school-record 2,495 points.

Hollingsworth has volunteered locally with Dunbar's peer-mentoring program and as a youth basketball coach. "Taveion affects the game so much on both ends of the floor," said Jeff Davis, head coach of South Laurel High. "He has a hand in every point that is scored by creating for others and putting them in position to be successful."

Hollingsworth has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at Western Kentucky University beginning 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 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.

Hollingsworth joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Boys Basketball Players of the Year Quentin Goodin (2015-16, Taylor County High School), Camron Justice (2014-15, Knott County Central High School), Quentin Snider (2013-14, Ballard High School), Dominique Hawkins (2012-13, Madison Central High School), Nathan Dieudonne (2011-12, Trinity High School), Timmy Knipp (2010-11, Elliott County High School), Elisha Justice (2009-10, Shelby Valley High School), Jon Hood (2008-09, Madisonville North Hopkins High School), Darius Miller (2007-08, Mason County High School), and Steffphon Pettigrew (2006-07, Elizabethtown High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Taveion 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).