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**KALAMAZOO CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® MICHIGAN 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 Isaiah Livers of Kalamazoo Central High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Michigan Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Livers is the first Gatorade Michigan Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Kalamazoo Central 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 Livers as Michigan'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, Livers 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-8, 205-pound senior forward had led the Maroon Giants to a 20-3 record and a berth in the Class A regional final at the time of his selection. Livers averaged 18 points, 14 rebounds and 4.8 assists per game while shooting 59 percent from inside the arc through 23 games. A First Team All-State honoree and a Michigan Mr. Basketball finalist, he scored 24 points to go with seven rebounds and five assists in a 69-50 win over Holt in the regional semifinals.

He has volunteered locally to help deliver clean water to residents in Flint, Mich. and has participated in a service mission in association with his church. "Isaiah Livers is far and away the best player that I have seen this year," said Todd Pawielski, head coach at Niles High. "He is a polished player who seems like he can do it all on both sides of ball. He has a good outside shot, is an excellent rebounder and handles the ball quite well."

Livers has maintained a 3.45 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Michigan 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.

Livers joins recent Gatorade Michigan Boys Basketball Players of the Year Cassius Winston (2015-16, University of Detroit Jesuit High School), Deyonta Davis (2014-15, Muskegon High School), Yante Maten (2013-14, Bloomfield Hills High School), Derrick Walton Jr. (2012-13, Chandler Park Academy), Matt Costello (2011-12 & 2010-11, Bay City Western High School), Ray McCallum (2009-10 & 2008-09, Detroit Country Day School), Brad Redford (2007-08, Frankenmuth High School), and Corperryale 'Manny' Harris (2006-07, Redford High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Isaiah 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.