

Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3656)

**DICKINSON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® NORTH DAKOTA 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 Aanen Moody of Dickinson High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade North Dakota Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Moody is the third Gatorade North Dakota Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Dickinson 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 Moody as North Dakota'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, Moody 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-2, 175-pound senior guard averaged 31.4 points, 6.2 rebounds and 3.4 steals per game while shooting 87 percent from the line this past season, leading the Midgets (23-4) to the Class A semifinals. The state's returning Gatorade Boys Basketball Player of the Year, Moody concluded his prep career with 2,132 points, the highest total in North Dakota Class A history.

A member of the National Honor Society and a devoted parishioner in his church community, Moody has volunteered locally at an area food pantry and as a youth basketball coach. "Aanen Moody's ability to score is second to none," said Dickinson High head coach Dan Glasser. "He has every offensive skill a coach could ask for. He has a great jump shot but can also penetrate and finish at the rim. When double- or triple-d team, he is able to get the ball to his open teammates as well."

Moody has maintained a 3.71 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of North Dakota 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.

Two-time winner Moody joins Gatorade North Dakota Boys Basketball Players of the Year Carter Kretchman (2014-15, Oak Grove Lutheran High School), Tanner Kretchman (2013-14, Davies High School), A.J. Jacobson (2012-13, Shanley High School), Dexter Werner (2011-12 & 2010-11, Bismarck High School), Nik Savageau (2009-10, Fargo North High School), Joe Hanstad (2008-09, Dickinson High School), Austin Dufault (2007-08, Killdeer High School), and Tate Kick (2006-07, Dickinson High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Aanen 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.