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**NORMAN NORTH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® OKLAHOMA 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 Trae Young of Norman North High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Oklahoma Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Young is the second Gatorade Oklahoma Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Norman North 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 Young as Oklahoma'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, Young 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, 170-pound senior guard averaged 42.8 points, six rebounds and 4.1 assists per game while shooting 58 percent from inside the arc this past season, leading the Timberwolves (19-6) to the Class 6A area final. The state's returning Gatorade Boys Basketball Player of the Year and a 2017 McDonald's All-American Game selection, Young is ranked as the nation's No. 15 recruit in the Class of 2017 by ESPN.

A devoted parishioner in his church community, Young has volunteered locally as a mentor for students with special needs and as a youth basketball coach. "Trae Young is so crafty with the ball it was very difficult containing him even with two players," said Gregg Hardin, head coach at Moore High. "He has all the tools needed to be a great player at the next level. He's by far the best player in the state and can contend with the top players in the nation."

Young has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Oklahoma 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 Young joins Gatorade Oklahoma Boys Basketball Players of the Year Shake Milton (2014-15 & 2013-14, Owasso High School), Stephen Clark (2012-13 & 2011-12, Douglass High School), Ryan Spangler (2010-11, Bridge Creek High School), Tyler Neal (2009-10, Putnam City West), Xavier Henry (2008-09 & 2007-08, Putnam City High School), and Blake Griffin (2006-07, Oklahoma Christian School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Trae 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.

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