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**WESTTOWN SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE® PENNSYLVANIA 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 Mohamed Bamba of Westtown School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Bamba is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Westtown 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 Bamba as Pennsylvania'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, Bamba 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-11, 218-pound senior forward led the Moose to a 32-2 record and the Independent Schools state championship this past season. Bamba averaged 12 points, 12 rebounds and six blocks per game. A member of the USA Basketball Men's U18 National Team, he has been chosen to play in the McDonald's All-American Game, the Jordan Brand Classic and the Nike Hoop Summit. Bamba is ranked as the nation's No. 2 recruit in the Class of 2017 by Scout.com and is a finalist for the Naismith High School Boys Player of the Year award.

Bamba has volunteered as a mentor for young students. "Bamba does everything well on the basketball court," said Seth Eilberg, head coach at The Hill School. "He's got a ridiculous wingspan and he dunks, shoots threes, passes the ball, and he can change the game on defense. He's so quick off his feet and he's got great timing—it's really impossible to prepare for him."

Bamba has maintained a B average in the classroom. He remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Bamba joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Basketball Players of the Year Lonnie Walker (2015-16, Reading High School), Levan Shawn Alston (2014-15, The Haverford School), J.C. Show (2013-14, Abington Heights High School), Steve Vasturia (2012-13, St. Joseph's Preparatory School), Amile Jefferson (2011-12 & 2010-11, Friends' Central School), Tony Chennault (2009-10, Neumann-Goretti High School), Maalik Wayns (2008-09, Roman Catholic High School), Brian Walsh (2007-08, Moon Area High School), and Jeff Jones (2006-07, Monsignor Bonner High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Mohamed 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).