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**CORDOVA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® TENNESSEE 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 Tyler Harris of Cordova High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Tennessee Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Harris is the first Gatorade Tennessee Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Cordova 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 Harris as Tennessee'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, Harris 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 5-foot-9, 150-pound junior point guard averaged 24.0 points, 4.0 assists, 3.3 rebounds and 2.0 steals per game this past season, leading the Wolves (24-8) to the Class AAA sectional tournament final. A two-time finalist for the Class AAA Mr. Basketball award, Harris is a two-time District and Regional MVP and a two-time First Team All-State selection.

A member of DECA, an international association of marketing students, Harris has volunteered locally with the Young for Youth Foundation as a basketball coach and counselor. "Tyler is an electrifying player and one of the best shooters in the state," said Terrance Scales, head coach of Cordova High. "He is extremely dynamic with the ball in his hands."

Harris has maintained a B average in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Harris joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Boys Basketball Players of the Year Alex Lomax (2015-16, Memphis East High School), Dedric Lawson (2014-15, Hamilton High School), Leron Black (2013-14, White Station High School), Austin Nichols (2012-13, Briarcrest Christian High School), Alex Poythress (2011-12, Northeast High School), Adonis Thomas (2010-11, Melrose High School), Joe Jackson (2009-10, White Station High School), John Jenkins (2008-09, Station Camp High School), Leslie McDonald (2007-08, Briarcrest Christian School), and Maurice Miller (2006-07, Raleigh-Egypt High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Tyler 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.