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**SKYLINE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® TEXAS 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 Marcus Garrett of Skyline High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Texas Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Garrett is the second Gatorade Texas Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Skyline 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 Garrett as Texas'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, Garrett 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-7, 190-pound senior guard averaged 17.3 points, 10.4 rebounds, 9.1 assists, 3.1 steals and 2.9 blocks per game this past season, leading the Raiders (34-2) to the Class 6A state semifinals. Garrett amassed 32 double-doubles and 12 triple-doubles in 36 games. He is a two-time District MVP and was a First Team All-State selection as a junior.

Garrett has volunteered locally as a youth tutor and at a homeless shelter in addition to donating his time at Children's Medical Center Dallas. "Marcus can do it all," said Justin Reese, head coach of Richardson High. "He has great vision, is highly skilled, can finish and can shoot it. He understands when to take over and when to let the game come to him. And he is an unbelievable defender—maybe the best in the state."

Garrett has maintained a weighted 3.26 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at Kansas University beginning 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.

Garrett joins recent Gatorade Texas Boys Basketball Players of the Year De'Aaron Fox (2015-16, Cypress Lakes High School), Admon Gilder (2014-15, James Madison High School), Justise Winslow (2013-14 & 2012-13, St. John's School), Marcus Smart (2011-12 & 2010-11 Marcus High School), Joseph Young (2009-10, Yates High School), Tommy Mason-Griffin (2008-09, Madison High School), Willie Warren (2007-08, North Crowley High School), and Gary Johnson (2006-07, Aldine High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Marcus 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.