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**POCA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® WEST VIRGINIA 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 Luke Frampton of Poca High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade West Virginia Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Frampton is the first Gatorade West Virginia Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Poca 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 Frampton as West Virginia'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, Frampton 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-5, 196-pound senior guard led the Dots to a 19-6 record and the regional final this past season. Frampton averaged 23.6 points, 10 rebounds, 4.5 assists and 2.2 steals per game. A First Team All-State selection and the Kanawha Valley Defensive Player of the Year as a junior, he is a three-time All-Conference honoree.

Frampton has assisted with social events for people with disabilities and has volunteered locally on behalf of a food bank and youth basketball programs. "Frampton is athletic and he can score in so many different ways," said Josh Daniel, head coach at Hoover High. "He's unselfish, but he can get any shot he wants, and he's as good a high school shooter as I've seen. Honestly, he does everything really well."

Frampton has maintained a 3.59 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Davidson College 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.

Frampton joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Boys Basketball Players of the Year Chase Harler (2015-16 & 2014-15, Wheeling Central Catholic High School), Montaque Gill-Caesar (2013-14, Huntington St. Joseph Prep.), Andrew Wiggins (2012-13 & 2011-12, Huntington Prep.), Chase Fischer (2010-11, Ripley High School), Noah Cottrill (2009-10, Logan High School), Aaron Dobson (2008-09, South Charleston High School), Bryant Irwin (2007-08, Bridgeport Senior High School), and Patrick Patterson (2006-07, Huntington High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Luke 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.