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**GONZAGA COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 8, 2018) — In its 33rd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Myles Dread of Gonzaga College High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Dread is the tenth Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Gonzaga College 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 field, distinguishes Dread as District of Columbia'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, Dread 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, 205-pound senior guard had led the Eagles to a 27-7 record and a berth in the Alhambra Catholic Invitational Tournament quarterfinals at the time of his selection. Dread averaged 14.1 points, 4.5 rebounds, 3.6 assists and 1.3 steals through 34 games. He knocked down 42.9 percent of his 3-point attempts (75-for-175) and entered the ACIT with 1,397 career points.

An avid composer of poetry, Dread has volunteered locally with literacy-outreach programs and as a youth basketball coach and counselor. He has also donated his time feeding the homeless and elderly. "Myles has a tremendous work ethic which he brings to practice and games every day," said Steve Turner, head coach of Gonzaga High. "He has done a great job of bringing our young guys along in showing them what it means to be a part of our program."

Dread has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at Penn State University 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.

Dread joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Basketball Players of the Year Luka Garza (2016-17, Maret School), Chris Lykes (2015-16, Gonzaga College High School), Bryant Crawford (2014-15, Gonzaga College High School), Johnnie Shuler (2013-14, Roosevelt High School), Kris Jenkins (2012-13 & 2011-12, Gonzaga College High School), Nate Britt (2010-11, Gonzaga College High School), Tyler Thornton (2009-10, Gonzaga College High School), Ian Hummer (2008-09, Gonzaga College High School), Max Kenyi (2007-08, Gonzaga College High School), and Chris Wright (2006-07, St. John's College High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Myles 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 the conversation on Twitter #GatoradePOY. 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 <http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com/>.

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