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**MUSCATINE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® IOWA 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 Joe Wieskamp of Muscatine High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Iowa Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Wieskamp is the first Gatorade Iowa Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Muscatine 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 Wieskamp as Iowa'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, Wieskamp 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-6, 190-pound senior guard/forward had led the Muskies to a 16-8 record and their first trip to the state tournament in 16 years at the time of his selection. The state's returning Gatorade Boys Basketball Player of the Year, Wieskamp averaged 33.7 points, 13.5 rebounds, 1.6 assists, 1.3 steals and 1.3 blocks through 24 games, shooting 55.6 percent from the floor. The nation's No. 71 recruit in the Class of 2018 according to the ESPN 100, and a member of the 2017 Adidas U.S. Select Team, Wieskamp is Iowa's Class 4A career scoring leader with 2,346 points entering the postseason.

An active member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and a variety of youth groups at his church, Wieskamp also donates his time locally as an elementary and middle school student mentor. "Joe is as good as I have ever seen at this level," said Matt Fitzpatrick, Assumption High head coach. "If you took Joe off his team, I'm not sure they would win a game, yet they finished four games above .500 in a tough conference."

Wieskamp has maintained a weighted 4.04 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Iowa 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.

Two-time winner Wieskamp joins Gatorade Iowa Boys Basketball Players of the Year Jordan Bohannon (2015-16, Linn-Mar High School), Spencer Haldeman (2014-15, Western Dubuque High School), Wyatt Lohaus (2013-14, Iowa City West High School), Jeremy Morgan (2012-13, Iowa City West High School), Marcus Paige (2011-12, Linn-Mar High School), Jarrod Uthoff (2010-11, Jefferson High School), Harrison Barnes (2009-10 & 2008-09, Ames High School), Matt Gatens (2007-08, City High School), and Brent Barz (2006-07, Johnston High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Joe 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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