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**APPLE VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® MINNESOTA 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 Tre Jones of Apple Valley High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Minnesota Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Jones is the fourth Gatorade Minnesota Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Apple Valley 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 Jones as Minnesota'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, Jones 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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 6-foot-2, 183-pound senior guard had led the Eagles to a 22-4 record and a berth in the Section 3AAAA Tournament quarterfinals at the time of his selection. Jones averaged 22.9 points, 8.9 rebounds, 6.3 assists and 3.8 steals through 26 games. Ranked as the nation's No. 5 recruit in the Class of 2018 by FloSports and also a 2018 McDonald's All-American Game selection, Jones was one of 10 semifinalists for the 2018 Naismith Prep Player of the Year.

Jones has volunteered locally with elementary school literacy-outreach programs and Feed My Starving Children. He has also donated his time as a youth basketball coach and as part of multiple community service initiatives through his church youth group. "Tre Jones is a walking triple-double," said Joe Janquart, head coach of Lakeville South High. "He plays bigger than his 6-2 frame. He has good players around him but he makes them that much better."

Jones has maintained a 3.53 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at Duke 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.

Two-time winner Jones joins Gatorade Minnesota Boys Basketball Players of the Year Gary Trent Jr. (2015-16, Apple Valley High School), J.T. Gibson (2014-15, Champlin Park High School), Tyus Jones (2013-14, 2012-13 & 2011-12, Apple Valley High School), Joe Coleman (2010-11, Hopkins High School), Kevin Noreen (2009-10, Minnesota Transitions Charter School), Mike Bruesewitz (2008-09, Henry Sibley High School), Jordan Taylor (2007-08, Benilde-St. Margaret's School), and Cole Aldrich (2006-07, Jefferson) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Tre 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/>.