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**CARL ALBERT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® OKLAHOMA 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 Mason Harrell of Carl Albert High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Oklahoma Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Harrell is the second Gatorade Oklahoma Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Carl Albert 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 Harrell as Oklahoma'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, Harrell 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 5-foot-8, 140-pound senior guard has led the Titans to a 24-3 record and a spot in the Class 5A state quarterfinals, scheduled for March 8. Harrell is averaging 33.3 points per game along with 4.5 assists, 4.6 rebounds and 3.4 steals. In reaching 2,665 career points (and counting), Harrell is now a two-time Suburban Conference Player of the Year.

As an active member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Harrell has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives. He also regularly donates his time to a special education class at Carl Albert Middle School. "It's the little, itty bitty things he does, not just the scoring," said Ron Arthur, head coach at Shawnee High. "He gets teammates involved, distributes to the correct guys. You can't double-team him. He makes it look so easy. On top of that, he's a great human being. We play them twice a year, and I'm glad he's graduating, but I'm a big fan."

Harrell has maintained a weighted 3.81 GPA in the classroom. He remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Harrell joins recent Gatorade Oklahoma Boys Basketball Players of the Year Trae Young (2016-17 & 2015-16, Norman North High School), Shake Milton (2014-15 & 2013-14, Owasso High School), Stephen Clark (2012-13 & 2011-12, Douglass High School), Ryan Spangler (2010-11, Bridge Creek High School), Tyler Neal (2009-10, Putnam City West), Xavier Henry (2008-09 & 2007-08, Putnam City High School), and Blake Griffin (2006-07, Oklahoma Christian School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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