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**MARS AREA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® PENNSYLVANIA 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 Robby Carmody of Mars Area High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Carmody is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Mars Area 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 Carmody as Pennsylvania'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, Carmody 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-4, 200-pound senior guard had led the Fightin' Planets to a 21-4 record and a berth in the Class 5A state tournament at the time of his selection. Carmody averaged 33.1 points, 14.1 rebounds, 4.7 assists and 4.0 steals through 25 games. A two-time First Team All-State honoree, he was also named to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Fab Five and was selected to the USA TODAY's ALL-USA Pennsylvania Second Team.

A devoted member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Carmody has volunteered locally on behalf of a retirement home, youth basketball camps and Autism Speaks. "Robby Carmody is a great player and person who plays hard every game," said Adam Kaufman, head coach at Moon Area High. "He's a very good shooter from the perimeter, both off the catch and off the dribble, he's a good rebounder for his size, and defensively, he has great anticipation. You can tell he's played a lot of basketball at a high level for a long time."

Carmody has maintained a 4.05 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Notre Dame 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.

Carmody joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Basketball Players of the Year Mohamed Bamba (2016-17, Westtown School), Lonnie Walker (2015-16, Reading High School), Levan Shawn Alston (2014-15, The Haverford School), J.C. Show (2013-14, Abington Heights High School), Steve Vasturia (2012-13, St. Joseph's Preparatory School), Amile Jefferson (2011-12 & 2010-11, Friends' Central School), Tony Chennault (2009-10, Neumann-Goretti), Maalik Wayns (2008-09, Roman Catholic High School), Brian Walsh (2007-08, Moon Area High School), and Jeff Jones (2006-07, Monsignor Bonner) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Robby 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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