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**RICE MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE® VERMONT BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 8, 2018) — In its 33<sup>rd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Kam Farris of Rice Memorial High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Vermont Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Farris is the first Gatorade Vermont Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Rice Memorial 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 Farris as Vermont'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, Farris 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-2, 175-pound junior guard had led the Green Knights to a 17-2 record and a berth in the Division 1 state tournament at the time of his selection. Farris averaged 22.7 points, 5.3 rebounds and 2.5 assists through 19 games. A First Team All-State and All-Metro honoree, he was also named to the Vermont Basketball Coaches Association Dream Dozen each of the past two seasons and was selected to the USA TODAY's ALL-USA Vermont First Team.

Farris has volunteered locally on behalf of youth basketball camps. "Kam Farris is the best pure basketball player in the state," said Sol Bayer-Pacht, head coach at South Burlington High. "You have to guard him 28 feet from the hoop and he hits shots that you simply can't stop. He can get to the rim and finish and he has tremendous touch."

Farris has maintained a B average in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Farris joins recent Gatorade Vermont Boys Basketball Players of the Year Calvin Carter (2016-17, Enosburg Falls High School), Ben Shungu (2015-16 & 2014-15, Rice Memorial High School), Pavin Parrish (2013-14, Rochester High School), Matt St. Amour (2012-13 & 2011-12, Missisquoi Valley Union High School), Ben Ferris (2010-11, Essex High School), Joe O'Shea (2009-10, Burlington High School), Clancy Rugg (2008-09, Burlington High School), Matt Joslin (2007-08, North Country Union High School), and Pat Bergmann (2006-07, Rice Memorial High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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