

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Contact: Kisa Mugwanya (312-729- 3670)**  
**GatoradePOYQuestions@Fleishman.com**

## **MEMPHIS EAST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE® TENNESSEE BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (March 15, 2019) — In its 34<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **James Wiseman of Memphis East High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Tennessee Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Wiseman is the third Gatorade Tennessee Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Memphis East 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 Wiseman as Tennessee'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, Wiseman joins an elite alumni association of past state boys basketball award winners, including Karl-Anthony Towns (2012-13 & 2013-14, St. Joseph High School, N.J.), Dwight Howard (2003-04, Southwest Atlanta Christian Academy, Ga.), Chris Bosh (2001-02, Lincoln High School, Texas), Paul Pierce (1994-95, Inglewood High School, Calif.), Chauncey Billups (1993-94 & 1994-95, George Washington High School, Colo.) and Jason Kidd (1991-92, St. Joseph Notre Dame High School, Calif.).

The 7-foot, 230-pound senior center had led the Mustangs to a 24-8 record and a berth in the Class AAA state tournament quarterfinals at the time of his selection. Wiseman averaged 25.8 points, 14.8 rebounds, 5.5 blocks and 1.3 steals through 32 games. The Class AAA Mr. Basketball winner, Wiseman is ranked as the No. 1 recruit in the Class of 2019 by ESPN, Rivals and 247Sports. He will participate in the 2019 Nike Hoop Summit in Oregon next month.

Wiseman has volunteered locally at the Big River Crossing Marathon to benefit a youth tutoring and mentoring program. He has also donated his time with Habitat for Humanity and as a youth basketball coach. "James is practically unguardable and demands a double- or triple-team almost every time he touches the ball," said Faragi Phillips, head coach of Whitehaven High. "What is most impressive is his high motor. He plays every possession like he still has something to prove."

Wiseman has maintained an A-minus average in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Memphis beginning 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.

Wiseman joins Gatorade Tennessee Boys Basketball Players of the Year Darius Garland (2017-18, Brentwood Academy), Tyler Harris (2016-17, Cordova High School), Alex Lomax (2015-16, Memphis East High School), and Dedric Lawson (2014-15, Hamilton High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Wiseman also has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of his choosing. He is also eligible to submit an essay to win one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants for the organization of choice, which will be announced throughout the year.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit [www.Gatorade.com/POY](http://www.Gatorade.com/POY), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](https://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).

###