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**COLONY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ALASKA BOYS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 22, 2017) — In its 32nd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Brandon Nicholson of Colony High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Alaska Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Nicholson is the third Gatorade Alaska Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Colony 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 track, distinguishes Nicholson as Alaska's best high school boys track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year award to be announced in June, Nicholson joins an elite alumni association of state track & field award-winners, including Lolo Jones (1997-98, Roosevelt High School, Iowa), Allyson Felix (2002-03, Los Angeles Baptist High School, Calif.), Robert Griffin III (2006-07, Copperas Cove High School, Texas), Grant Fisher (2013-14 & 2014-15, Grand Blanc High School, Mich.) and Candace Hill (2014-15, Rockdale County High School, Ga.).

The 6-foot, 155-pound senior jumper captured two individual state titles at the Class 4A state meet this spring, leading the Knights to an eighth-place finish as a team. Nicholson won the high jump with a leap of six feet, four inches and set a meet record in the triple jump, soaring 46-7.5. Named the Alaska School Activities Association Outstanding Athlete of the boys meet, he also earned second place in the long jump with a mark of 21 feet, 7.25 inches.

An Honor Roll student and member of the National Honor Society with plans to become a physician, Nicholson has volunteered locally as a deckhand on a fishing boat in rural Alaska. "Brandon Nicholson stands out against other student-athletes in his ability to persevere through challenges and incorporate feedback," said Colony High school counselor and former track & field head coach Becky Hiatt. "Athletic competitions can be intense and highly emotional environments but he has learned to navigate success and his mistakes. He competes with his whole heart and is always willing to do what is asked of him."

Nicholson has maintained a 3.77 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of Alaska 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.

Nicholson joins recent Gatorade Alaska Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Brett Morman (2015-16, South Anchorage High School), Levi Thomet (2014-15, 2013-14 & 2012-13, Kodiak High School), Tyler Rohde (2011-12, Chugiak High School), Elliott Bauer (2010-11, South Anchorage High School), Silas Talbot (2009-10, Service High School), Trevor Dunbar (2008-09, Kodiak High School), Jordan Clarke (2007-08, Bartlett High School), and Tyler Dinnan (2006-07, Juneau-Douglas High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Brandon 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 us on Twitter. 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 www.gatorade.com/poy.

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