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**COEUR D'ALENE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE IDAHO 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 Grady Leonard of Coeur d'Alene High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Idaho Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Leonard is the first Gatorade Idaho Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Coeur d'Alene 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 Leonard as Idaho'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, Leonard 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-2, 230-pound senior captured a pair of individual state titles at the Class 5A meet this spring, leading the Vikings to a fifth-place finish as a team. Leonard won the shot with a put of 61 feet, 5.5 inches and the discus with a throw of 182-5. The MVP of the Pasco Invitational, Leonard's personal-best effort of 67-0 in the shot at the Rasmussen Invitational ranked as the nation's No. 7 performance among prep competitors in 2017 at the time of his selection. His personal-best throw of 188-5 in the discus at April's Arcadia Invitational ranked No. 47 nationally.

Leonard is a devoted parishioner in his church community, where he has volunteered locally on behalf of its youth group and as a camp counselor. "It is hard to believe, but Grady Leonard's athletic accomplishments are surpassed only by his amazingly humble personality," said Coeur d'Alene High School head coach Justin Aguilar. "He helps underclassmen and sincerely cheers on all competitors. His big smile and huge heart has made him one of the most likable athletes I have ever coached."

Leonard has maintained a 3.52 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.

Leonard joins recent Gatorade Idaho Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Michael Slagowski (2015-16, Rocky Mountain High School), Elijah Armstrong (2014-15, Pocatello High School), Josh Barclay (2013-14, Minico High School), Thomas Rigby (2012-13, Boise High School), Erik Harris (2011-12, Twin Falls High School), Dallas Burroughs (2010-11, Rocky Mountain High School), A.J. Bouilly (2009-10, Borah High School), Mitch Simmonds (2008-09, Cole Valley Christian High School), Eric Fitzpatrick (2007-08, Boise High School), and John Mering (2006-07, Boise High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Grady 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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