

Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3656)

**SELAH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WASHINGTON 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 Brigham Cardon of Selah High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Washington Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Cardon is the first Gatorade Washington Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Selah 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 Cardon as Washington'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, Cardon 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 5-foot-8, 140-pound senior won the 800-meter run and the 1,600 at the Class 2A state meet this past season, leading the Vikings to a third-place finish as a team. It was Cardon's third straight state title in the 800 and his second in the 1,600. He broke the tape in the 800 in a meet-record time of 1:52.16. His personal-best 800 clocking of 1:50.74 at the District 5/6/7 2A state qualifying meet ranked as the nation's No. 16 performance among prep competitors this spring at the time of his selection.

An Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America, Cardon has volunteered locally as a youth track coach in addition to donating his time as part of multiple community-service initiatives through his church youth group. "Brigham's season seemed to unfold just as it was planned," said Jason Smith, head coach of Toppenish High. "He ran the marks that he wanted to when he wanted to run them."

Cardon has maintained a 3.95 GPA in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade award's broad criteria. He has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at Brigham Young University 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.

Cardon joins recent Gatorade Washington Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Jack Yearian (2015-16 & 2014-15, Bellarmine Preparatory School), Drew Schreiber (2013-14, Eisenhower High School), Marcus Chambers (2012-13, Henry Foss High School), Marcus Dickson (2011-12, White River High School), Kasen Williams (2010-11, Skyline High School), Derek Eager (2009-10, Tahoma High School), Shane Moskowitz (2008-09, Central Kitsap High School), Miles Unterreiner (2007-08, Gig Harbor High School), and Kyle Schauble (2006-07, Kamiakin High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Brigham 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.

###