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**SENTINEL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® MONTANA BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 8, 2018) — In its 33rd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Sam Beighle of Sentinel High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Montana Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Beighle is the second Gatorade Montana Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Sentinel 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 Beighle as Montana'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, Beighle 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-3, 185-pound senior guard had led the Spartans to a 17-3 record and the quarterfinals of the Class AA state tournament at the time of his selection. Beighle averaged 22.8 points, 7.3 rebounds, 2.9 assists and 1.6 steals through 20 games. A four-time All-Conference honoree, he was named to the All-State Tournament team as a junior.

A member of his school's DECA club, Beighle has volunteered locally on behalf of a youth track program. "Beighle has dominated this basketball season, leading AA in scoring and shooting a high percentage," said Ross Gustafson, head coach at Flathead High. "He's also a great rebounder, passer and defender. There's no more complete player."

Beighle has maintained a 3.96 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Carroll College 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.

Beighle joins recent Gatorade Montana Boys Basketball Players of the Year Brendan Howard (2016-17 & 2015-16, Great Falls High School), Tres Tinkle (2014-15 & 2013-14, Hellgate High School), Daine Muller (2012-13, Skyview High School), Danny Robison (2011-12, Billings West High School), Tanner Roderick (2010-11, Bozeman High School), Josh Huestis (2009-10 & 2008-09, C.M. Russell), Andy Garland (2007-08, Sentinel High School), and Derek Selvig (2006-07, Dawson County) among the state's list of former award winners.

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