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**VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE® NEW MEXICO BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 8, 2018) — In its 33<sup>rd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Anthony Chavez of Valley High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade New Mexico Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Chavez is the third Gatorade New Mexico Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Valley 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 Chavez as New Mexico'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, Chavez 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-1, 170-pound senior guard had paced the Vikings to a 19-8 record and a spot in the Class 6A state quarterfinals at the time of his selection. A three-time All-State honoree, Chavez averaged a city-best 23.7 points per game along with 8.7 rebounds, 6.1 assists and three steals through 27 contests on his way to All-District recognition for a fourth consecutive year.

In addition to working at a youth basketball camp and volunteering to help the homeless with his church's youth group, Chavez has also donated his time to the Southwest Salsa Slam basketball tournament. "I think (Chavez) is the most dynamic player in the state, and I don't think there's anyone else even close," said Alvin Broussard, head coach at Sandia High. "He's the only player in the state that I think can flat out, consistently take over a game night in and night out."

Chavez has maintained a weighted 3.05 GPA in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade award's broad criteria. He has committed to play basketball at the University of New Mexico 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.

Chavez joins recent Gatorade New Mexico Boys Basketball Players of the Year Brenden Boatwright (2016-17, Carlsbad High School), Clay Patterson (2015-16, Rio Rancho High School), Ryan Jones (2014-15, Sue Cleveland High School), Adonis Saltes (2013-14, Valley High School), Bryce Alford (2012-13, La Cueva High School), Cullen Neal (2011-12, Eldorado High School), Chris Strong (2010-11, Eldorado High School), Alex Kirk (2009-10, Los Alamos), Lucio Luttrell (2008-09, Las Cruces High School), Jeff Taylor (2007-08, Hobbs High School), and Aaron 'Gordo' Castillo (2006-07, Las Cruces) among the state's list of former award winners.

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

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