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**OLYMPUS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE® UTAH 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 Rylan Jones of Olympus High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Utah Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Jones is the second Gatorade Utah Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Olympus 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 Jones as Utah'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, Jones 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, 165-pound junior guard led the Titans to a perfect 27-0 record and the Class 5A state championship this past season. Jones averaged 18.3 points, 9.9 assists, 6.6 rebounds and 2.9 steals per game, and set a single-season state record for assists with 266. The Class 5A state tournament MVP, he was a Deseret News First Team All-State selection and a member of the Salt Lake Tribune's All-Tribune Team.

Jones has volunteered locally on behalf of youth basketball programs. "Rylan Jones is the best basketball player I've seen in a while," said Jim Boyce, head coach at Highland High. "He can do everything: score, shoot, rebound, assist, play defense. His court awareness and body control are elite. He can beat you in so many different ways."

Jones has maintained a 3.94 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Jones joins recent Gatorade Utah Boys Basketball Players of the Year Jaxon Brenchley (2016-17, Ridgeline High School), Frank Jackson (2015-16, Lone Peak High School), Zac Seljaas (2014-15, Bountiful High School), T.J. Haws (2013-14, Lone Peak High School), Nick Emery (2012-13 & 2010-11, Lone Peak High School), Jordan Loveridge (2011-12, West Jordan High School), Kyle Collinworth (2009-10, Provo High School), Tyler Haws (2008-09 & 2007-08, Lone Peak High School), and Chris Collinworth (2006-07, Provo High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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