

Contact: Kelsey Rhoney (312-729- 3685)

**CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® NEVADA GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 19, 2018) — In its 33rd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Justice Ethridge of Centennial High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Nevada Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Ethridge is the fifth Gatorade Nevada Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Centennial 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 Ethridge as Nevada's best high school girls basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Basketball Player of the Year award announced in March, Ethridge joins an elite alumni association of past state girls basketball award-winners, including Maya Moore (2005-06 Collins Hill HS, Ga.), Rashanda McCants (2004-05, Asheville HS, N.C.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Diana Taurasi (1998-99 & 1999-00, Don Antonio Lugo HS, Calif.), Shyra Ely (1999-00, Ben Davis HS, Ind.) and Lisa Leslie (1988-89, Morningside HS, Calif.).

The 5-foot-8 senior guard led the Bulldogs to a 29-3 record and the Class 4A state championship this past season. Ethridge averaged 15.2 points, 3.6 rebounds, 2.5 steals and 2.1 assists per game for the nation's No. 6-ranked team in the USA Today Super 25. A four-time state champion and three-time member of the Las Vegas Sun Super 7 Team, Ethridge is rated as the nation's No. 22 guard and No. 91 recruit in the Class of 2018 by espnW.

Ethridge has donated her time to the Get Active Foundation's annual toy drive, the Funny Bunny Race for Parkinson's and Pancakes for Parkinson's. She has also volunteered locally with the Special Olympics. "Even as good as Centennial was all around, we had to focus on Justice," said Phil Clark, head coach at Palo Verde High. "She's the focal point, and she kept getting better at what she was doing. She can do a little bit of everything. She was the best player on the best team, definitely deserving of this award."

Ethridge has maintained a weighted 3.58 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball at UNLV 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.

Ethridge joins recent Gatorade Nevada Girls Basketball Players of the Year Samantha Thomas (2016-17, Centennial High School), Katie Turner (2015-16, Bishop Manogue Catholic High School), Mallory McGwire (2014-15 & 2013-14, Reno High School), Sarita Jo Condie (2012-13, Pershing County High School), Jada Brown (2011-12, Centennial High School), Amanda Delgado (2010-11, Liberty High School), Alexis Byrd (2009-10, Centennial High School), Mia Bell (2008-09, Durango High School), Ashley Gayle (2007-08, Bishop Gorman High School), and Italee Lucas (2006-07, Centennial High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Justice 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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