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**CHINO HILLS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® CALIFORNIA BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 17, 2016) — In its 31st year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Lonzo Ball of Chino Hills High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade California Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Ball is the first Gatorade California Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Chino Hills 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 court, distinguishes Ball as California'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, Ball joins an elite alumni association of past state boys basketball award winners, including Dwight Howard (2003-04, SW Atlanta Christian Academy, Ga.), Chauncey Billups (1993-94 & 1994-95, George Washington HS, Colo.), Jason Kidd (1991-92, St. Joseph Notre Dame HS, Calif.), Paul Pierce (1994-95, Inglewood HS, Calif.) and Chris Bosh (2001-02, Lincoln HS, Texas).

At the time of his selection, the 6-foot-6, 190-pound senior point guard had led the Huskies to a 31-0 record and a berth in the CIF Open Division quarterfinals. A 2016 Jordan Brand Classic and McDonald's All-American Game selection, Ball averaged 23.2 points, 5.8 rebounds and 5.5 assists per game while shooting 87 percent from the free throw line through 31 games. He is the 2016 Naismith Trophy High School Player of the Year as well as the Morgan Wootten Award winner, and he's rated as the nation's No. 5 senior recruit in the ESPN 100.

Ball has maintained a 3.80 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society, he has volunteered locally as a youth basketball coach.

"I truly believe Lonzo Ball is a rare and unique player," said Doug Mitchell, head coach at Bishop Montgomery High. "What separates him from other talented players is his incredible passing ability. He is the best high school passer I have seen since Jason Kidd. It is his ability to make his teammates better that has made Chino Hills so special this year."

Ball has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at UCLA 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 high school sports leadership team in partnership with [USA TODAY High School Sports](#), 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.

Ball joins recent Gatorade California Boys Basketball Players of the Year Tyler Dorsey (2014-15, Maranatha High School), Stanley Johnson (2013-14, Mater Dei High School), Roschon Prince (2012-13, Long Beach Poly High School), Grant Jerrett (2011-12, Lutheran High School), Ryan Anderson (2010-11, Long Beach Poly High School), Allen Crabbe (2009-10, Price High School), Michael Snaer (2008-09, Rancho Verde High School), and Jrue Holiday (2007-08 & 2006-07, Campbell Hall High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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.

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