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**BISHOP GORMAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEVADA 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 Zach Collins of Bishop Gorman High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Nevada Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Collins is the ninth Gatorade Nevada Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bishop Gorman 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 Collins as Nevada'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, Collins 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).

The 7-foot, 225-pound senior forward and center led the Gaels to a 25-7 record and their fifth straight Division I state title this past season. Collins averaged 17.3 points and 14 rebounds per game while shooting 67 percent from inside the arc. A 2016 McDonald's All-American Game selection and the nation's No. 32 recruit in the Class of 2016 as rated by Rivals.com, he scored 24 points on 11-for-14 shooting to go with 15 rebounds and eight blocks in the state title-clinching win over Centennial.

Collins has maintained a 3.19 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a special education teaching assistant and on behalf of his church youth group.

"Zach Collins is great player, but more importantly, he is a gentleman," said Ryan Fretz, head coach at Desert Oasis High. "I have been extremely impressed how he has become a leader, an example and a mentor within our local basketball community. The respect he shows opposing coaches, teams and players should be applauded. He is the best player in our state and it was very difficult to game plan for him. His athleticism and length is much greater than folks realize."

Collins has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Gonzaga University 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.

Collins joins recent Gatorade Nevada Boys Basketball Players of the Year Chase Jeter (2014-15, Bishop Gorman High School), Noah Robotham (2013-14, Bishop Gorman High School), Marcus Allen (2012-13, Centennial High School), Shabazz Muhammad (2011-12 & 2010-11, Bishop Gorman High School), Johnathan Loyd (2009-10, Bishop Gorman High School), Anthony Marshall (2008-09, Mojave High School), and Luke Babbitt (2007-08 & 2006-07, Galena 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.