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

CHICAGO (March 13, 2017) — In its 32nd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Tori Williams of Centennial High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Idaho Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Williams is the second Gatorade Idaho 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 court, distinguishes Williams as Idaho'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, Williams 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 Patriots to a 23-4 record and the Class 5A state title this past season. Williams averaged 18.2 points, 5.1 rebounds and 3.9 assists per game while shooting 35 percent (70-for-202) from beyond the arc. A three-time First Team All-Southern Idaho Conference selection and the 2017 Conference Player of the Year, she scored a game-high 15 points in the 40-37, title-clinching win over Eagle High.

Williams has volunteered locally as a peer mentor and as a youth basketball coach. "Tori Williams is the most competitive player I have ever coached," said Centennial High head coach Candace Thornton. "It does not matter if it's a drill, practice or game, she refuses to lose. More than once this season, she came over to me at the bench, looked me in the eye and said 'we are not losing this game.' Every time I believe her and every time she has been right, including in the state championship."

Williams has maintained a 3.42 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Utah 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.

Williams joins recent Gatorade Idaho Girls Basketball Players of the Year Destiny Slocum (2015-16 & 2014-15, Mountain View High School), Leah Bonner (2013-14, Skyview High School), Dani Faylor (2012-13, Post Falls High School), Tisha Phillips (2011-12, Lewiston High School), Jackie Luna-Castro (2010-11, Boise High School), Katelyn Loper (2009-10, Post Falls High School), and Katie Baker (2008-09, 2007-08 & 2006-07, Lake City High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Tori 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 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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