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**CORONA DEL SOL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE® ARIZONA BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 20, 2017) — In its 32<sup>nd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Alex Barcello of Corona del Sol High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Arizona Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Barcello is the fourth Gatorade Arizona Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Corona del Sol 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 Barcello as Arizona'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, Barcello 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-3, 170-pound senior point guard averaged 24.2 points, 5.9 rebounds and three assists per game this past season, leading the Aztecs (26-4) to the 6A conference state final. The state's 2014-15 Gatorade Boys Basketball Player of the Year, Barcello set a school record this season by sinking 90.2 percent of his free throw attempts.

A vocalist in his church choir, Barcello has volunteered locally on behalf of Feed My Starving Children, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and as a youth basketball coach. "Alex Barcello is one of the best point guards that I have seen in a while," said Derrick Donaldson, head coach at Highland High. "He takes a calm and cool approach and at the end of the game you don't even realize he has scored 30 points on your team."

Barcello has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Arizona 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.

Two-time winner Barcello joins Gatorade Arizona Boys Basketball Players of the Year Mitch Lightfoot (2015-16, Gilbert Christian High School), Alex Barcello (2014-15, Corona del Sol High School), Dorian Pickens (2013-14, Pinnacle High School), Casey Benson (2012-13, Corona del Sol High School), Tim Derksen (2011-12, Amphitheater High School), Jordan Baker (2010-11, Tempe High School), Corey Hawkins (2009-10 & 2008-09, Estrella Foothills High School), Taylor Rohde (2007-08, Pinnacle High School), and Jerryd Bayless (2006-07, St. Mary's High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Alex 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).