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**ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® IDAHO BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 20, 2017) — In its 32nd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Kolby Lee of Rocky Mountain High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Idaho Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Lee is the first Gatorade Idaho Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Rocky Mountain 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 Lee as Idaho'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, Lee 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-9, 260-pound senior forward and center led the Grizzlies to a 26-1 record and the first Class 5A state title in program history this past season. Lee averaged 16.6 points, 9.3 rebounds and 2.6 blocks per game while shooting 65 percent from inside the arc. A First Team All-State Tournament selection, he scored 15 points with 14 rebounds in the 72-51, state title-clinching win over Centennial High.

An Eagle Scout and a devoted parishioner in his church community, Lee has volunteered locally on behalf of Power 2 Become and Hoop Dreams Idaho. "Kolby Lee's hard work and determination have propelled him to be one of the best big men to come out of Idaho in many years," said Rocky Mountain High head coach Dane Roy. "He fights through constant double teams and collapsing defenses and has led our team to its best results to date."

Lee has maintained a 3.69 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Brigham Young 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 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.

Lee joins recent Gatorade Idaho Boys Basketball Players of the Year Connor Harding (2015-16, Highland High School), Stefan Gonzalez (2014-15, Highland High School), Isaiah Wright (2013-14 & 2012-13, Borah High School), Joey Nebeker (2011-12, Melba High School), Kyle Dranginis (2010-11 & 2009-10, Skyview High School), Josh Fuller (2008-09, Madison High School), Mitch Bruneel (2007-08, Eagle High School), and Matt Ballenger (2006-07, Skyview High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Kolby 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.