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**CARLSBAD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® NEW MEXICO 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 Brenden Boatwright of Carlsbad High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade New Mexico Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Boatwright is the first Gatorade New Mexico Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Carlsbad 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 Boatwright as New Mexico'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, Boatwright 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, 225-pound senior forward and center averaged 21.5 points, 11.1 rebounds and 2.3 blocked shots per game while shooting 62 percent from inside the arc this past season, leading the Cavemen (17-11) to the first round of the Class 6A state tournament. A First Team All-State selection, Boatwright concluded his prep career at No. 2 in state history with 250 blocks and No. 3 with 1,019 rebounds.

An avid outdoorsman and member of the Rotary Club, he has volunteered locally as a vacation bible school leader, a mentor for children with special needs and as a youth basketball coach. "Brenden Boatwright is the quintessential post player who can excel on both ends of the floor," said Carlsbad head coach Jamaal Brown. "He is always first to arrive and the last to leave the gym. His blue-collar work ethic is a character trait that will ensure his success beyond the basketball court."

Boatwright has maintained a 3.35 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Fort Lewis College in Colorado 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.

Boatwright joins recent Gatorade New Mexico Boys Basketball Players of the Year Clay Patterson (2015-16, Rio Rancho High School), Ryan Jones (2014-15, Sue Cleveland High School), Adonis Saltes (2013-14, Valley High School), Bryce Alford (2012-13, La Cueva High School), Cullen Neal (2011-12, Eldorado High School), Chris Strong (2010-11, Eldorado High School), Alex Kirk (2009-10, Los Alamos High School), Lucio Luttrell (2008-09, Las Cruces High School), Jeff Taylor (2007-08, Hobbs High School), and Aaron 'Gordo' Castillo (2006-07, Las Cruces High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Brenden 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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