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**WILSONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® OREGON 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 Zach Reichle of Wilsonville High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Oregon Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Reichle is the first Gatorade Oregon Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Wilsonville 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 Reichle as Oregon'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, Reichle 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-5, 200-pound senior guard and forward led the Wildcats to a 27-1 record and the Class 5A state championship this past season. Reichle averaged 24.5 points, 6.6 rebounds, 3.8 assists and 2.1 steals per game. The Class 5A Player of the Year, he is also the two-time Northwest Oregon Conference Player of the Year.

Reichle has volunteered locally feeding the homeless and helping young children learn to read. "I don't think anyone in Oregon works as hard as Zach Reichle," said Don Law, head coach at Milwaukie High. "The kid can flat-out score, and he helps everyone around him get better. He never forces the issue."

Reichle has maintained a 3.98 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the Oregon State 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.

Reichle joins recent Gatorade Oregon Boys Basketball Players of the Year Payton Pritchard (2015-16 & 2014-15, West Linn High School), Silas Melson (2013-14, Jefferson High School), Calvin Hermanson (2012-13 & 2011-12, Lake Oswego High School), Kyle Wiltjer (2010-11, Jesuit High School), Garrett Jackson (2009-10, Westview High School), E. J. Singler (2008-09, South Medford High School), Brad Tinsley (2007-08, Oregon City High School), and Kevin Love (2006-07, Lake Oswego High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Zach 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.