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**RIDGELINE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE® UTAH 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 Jaxon Brenchley of Ridgeline High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Utah Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Brenchley is the first Gatorade Utah Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Ridgeline 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 Brenchley as Utah'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, Brenchley 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, 190-pound senior guard led the Riverhawks to a 21-4 record and the Class 3A state championship this past season. Brenchley averaged 19.7 points, 7.5 rebounds, 5.7 assists and 2.8 steals per game. A member of the All-State Tournament team, he earned Second Team All-State honors as a sophomore and a junior from both the Salt Lake Tribune and the Deseret News.

A devoted member of his church community and an Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America, Brenchley has collected books for underprivileged children in China and has volunteered locally on behalf of youth sports programs and an elementary school reading initiative. "Brenchley really commands and controls the game on both ends of the floor," said Drew Trost, head coach at Juan Diego Catholic High. "He's devastating in transition and off the dribble, and he's also an excellent passer and rebounder."

Brenchley has maintained a 3.99 GPA in the classroom. He 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.

Brenchley joins recent Gatorade Utah Boys Basketball Players of the Year Frank Jackson (2015-16, Lone Peak High School), Zac Seljaas (2014-15, Bountiful High School), T.J. Haws (2013-14, Lone Peak High School), Nick Emery (2012-13 & 2010-11, Lone Peak High School), Jordan Loveridge (2011-12, West Jordan High School), Kyle Collinsworth (2009-10, Provo), Tyler Haws (2008-09 & 2007-08, Lone Peak High School), and Chris Collinsworth (2006-07, Provo High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Jaxon 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).