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ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE IDAHO BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (May 30, 2017) — In its 32nd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Ethan Christianson of Rocky Mountain High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Idaho Baseball Player of the Year. Christianson is the second Gatorade Idaho Baseball 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 field, distinguishes Christianson as Idaho's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Christianson joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo High School, Mich.), Jon Lester (2001-02, Bellarmine Preparatory School, Wash.), David Price (2003-04, Blackman High School, Tenn.), Clayton Kershaw (2005-06, Highland Park High School, Texas), Rick Porcello (2006-2007, Seaton Hall Preparatory School, N.J.) and Kris Bryant (2009-10, Bonanza High School, Nev.).

The 6-foot-2, 170-pound junior left-handed pitcher led the Grizzlies to a 22-5 record and the Class 5A state title this past season, posting a 7-0 record with a 0.72 ERA and 57 strikeouts in 39 innings while holding opposing hitters to a .102 batting average. The 2017 Southern Idaho Conference Player of the Year, Christianson struck out nine batters and held Coeur d'Alene to just one run in Rocky Mountain's 3-1 victory in the 5A quarterfinals.

Christianson has volunteered locally on behalf of the Idaho Food Bank, as a vacation bible school counselor and as a youth baseball coach. "Ethan Christianson can consistently get three pitches over for strikes at any time in the count," said Rocky Mountain head coach Joe Santa Maria. "His competitive nature and humor is what makes him a great team leader."

Christianson has maintained a 3.34 GPA in the classroom. He has made a verbal commitment to play baseball at Seattle University on scholarship beginning in the fall of 2018.

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.

Christianson joins recent Gatorade Idaho Baseball Players of the Year Parker Price (2015-16, Timberline High School), Parker Price (2014-15, Timberline High School), Nick Nyquist (2013-14, Coeur d'Alene High School), Levi Pereira (2012-13, Coeur d'Alene High School), Bryce Feist (2011-12, Rocky Mountain High School), Cy Sneed (2010-11, Twin Falls High School), Devon Austin (2009-10, Coeur d'Alene High School), Jacob Coats (2008-09, Twin Falls High School), Sean McDonald (2007-08, Boise High School), and Josh Osich (2006-07, Bishop Kelly High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Ethan 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 the conversation on Twitter #GatoradePOY. 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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