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

CHICAGO (March 8, 2018) — In its 33rd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Jake Pfennigs of Post Falls High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Idaho Boys Basketball Player of the Year. Pfennigs is the first Gatorade Idaho Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Post Falls 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 Pfennigs 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, Pfennigs 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-7, 185-pound senior guard has led the Trojans to a 19-5 record and a berth in the Class 5A state semifinal, scheduled for March 9. Pfennigs is averaging 18.4 points, 12.2 rebounds and 3.4 assists while shooting 54 percent from inside the arc. A two-time Inland Empire League MVP, Pfennigs is also a two-time Class 5A First-Team All-State selection and was named to the Platinum Division All-Tournament Team at the 2018 Tarkanian Classic in Las Vegas.

A youth basketball camp instructor during the summer, Pfennigs has also volunteered locally as an elementary school tutor in addition to donating his time to the Heroes and Holidays Event organized by the Post Falls Police Department to help at-risk children. "Jake's an awesome candidate for Gatorade Player of the Year," said Jim Winger, head coach at Lake City High. "He's been consistent from the get go. He's a tremendous shooter with a great presence inside. And he plays the game correctly, with great body language and a great attitude on the court."

Pfennigs has maintained a 3.81 GPA in the classroom. An elite baseball prospect and projected early round pick in the 2018 Major League Baseball Draft, Pfennigs has signed a national letter of intent to play baseball on scholarship at 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.

Pfennigs joins recent Gatorade Idaho Boys Basketball Players of the Year Kolby Lee (2016-17, Rocky Mountain High School), 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, Jake 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 <http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com/>.

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