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**ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOYS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 22, 2017) — In its 32nd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Eric Harrison of St. John's College High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Harrison is the first Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from St. John's College 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 track, distinguishes Harrison as District of Columbia's best high school boys track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year award to be announced in June, Harrison joins an elite alumni association of state track & field award-winners, including Lolo Jones (1997-98, Roosevelt High School, Iowa), Allyson Felix (2002-03, Los Angeles Baptist High School, Calif.), Robert Griffin III (2006-07, Copperas Cove High School, Texas), Grant Fisher (2013-14 & 2014-15, Grand Blanc High School, Mich.) and Candace Hill (2014-15, Rockdale County High School, Ga.).

The 5-foot-8, 155-pound senior sprinter captured a pair of individual titles at the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference championships this past season, leading the Cadets to a second-place finish as a team. Harrison won the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.67 seconds and the 200 dash in 21.33. The WCAC MVP and a Washington Post First Team All-Met selection, he also broke the tape in the 100 at the Bullis Bulldog invitational with a time of 10.62.

Harrison has volunteered locally on behalf of Genesis HealthCare, the Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Washington, New Life Ministries and as a youth football coach. "Eric Harrison is one of the most talented sprinters that I have had the opportunity to train in years," said St. John's College High School head coach Alonzo Ruffin. "He's been blessed with a God-given talent and he knows how to use it."

Harrison has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at The Ohio 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.

Harrison joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Drew Glick (2015-16, Woodrow Wilson High School), Maurice Morris (2014-15, Theodore Roosevelt High School), Acey Calhoun (2013-14, Woodrow Wilson High School), Michael Smith (2012-13, Dunbar High School), Mike Crozier (2011-12, Gonzaga College High School), Collin Leibold (2010-11, Gonzaga College High School), Imani Kelly (2009-10, Theodore Roosevelt High School), Seck Barry (2008-09 & 2007-08, St. Albans School), and Randy Lee (2006-07, Archbishop Carroll High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Eric 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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