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**MOUNT VERNON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE IOWA 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 Tristan Wirfs of Mount Vernon High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Iowa Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Wirfs is the first Gatorade Iowa Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Mount Vernon 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 Wirfs as Iowa'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, Wirfs 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 6-foot-6, 310-pound senior captured a pair of individual state titles at the Class 3A meet this spring, leading the Mustangs to second-place as a team. Wirfs hurled the discus 190 feet, 9.75 inches and put the shot 63-4.25. He also won both events at the Drake Relays where his winning mark of 66-3.25 in the shot ranked as the nation's No. 11 performance among prep competitors in 2017 at the time of his selection. Wirfs title-winning discus effort ranked No. 34 nationally.

Wirfs has volunteered locally as a youth mentor and as an elementary school physical education assistant coach. "Tristan Wirfs is obviously one of the most talented athletes with accolades that don't seem to ever stop," said Aric Chvala, head coach at Vinton-Shellsburg Community School head coach. "He just always seems to be working to do his best and encouraging others to do the same."

Wirfs has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play football on scholarship at the University of Iowa 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.

Wirfs joins recent Gatorade Iowa Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Ryan Schweizer (2015-16, Dowling Catholic High School), Thomas Pollard (2014-15, Gilbert High School), Josh Evans (2013-14 & 2012-13, Linn-Mar High School), Conner Smock (2011-12, Lisbon High School), Kevin Lewis (2010-11, Ottumwa High School), Kyle Dunn (2009-10, Linn-Mar High School), Omet Kak (2008-09, North High School), Jarred Herring (2007-08, Burlington High School), and Zac Sandvig (2006-07, Valley High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Tristan 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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