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**FREDERICK DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MARYLAND 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 Kollin Smith of Frederick Douglass High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Maryland Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Smith is the first Gatorade Maryland Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Frederick Douglass 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 Smith as Maryland'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, Smith 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-10, 165-pound senior won three individual state championships at the Class 2A state meet this past season. Smith captured the 110-meter high hurdles in 14.70 seconds, the 300-meter intermediate hurdles in 39.04 and broke the tape in the long jump with a leap of 23 feet, 5.5 inches. He also took fourth in the long jump at the New Balance Nationals Outdoor with an effort of 24-0.25, which ranked as the nation's No. 16 performance among prep competitors in 2017 at the time of his selection.

Also a football standout, Smith has volunteered locally on behalf of a youth track program. "As a senior, Kollin set the bar extremely high for himself, and I'm pleased to say that he reached his goals," said Frederick Douglass coach DeArdrey Jenkins. "He's one of the first athletes on the track every day and the last to leave. He worked on his craft, day in and day out."

Smith has maintained a B average in the classroom. He remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Smith joins recent Gatorade Maryland Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Shyheim Wright (2015-16, Northwest High School), Maxwell Willis (2014-15, Bowie High School), Robert Carter (2013-14, Long Reach High School), Julian Woods (2012-13, Century High School), Dondre Echols (2011-12, Potomac High School), Ronald Darby (2010-11, Potomac High School), Marquis Woodyard (2009-10 & 2008-09, Governor Thomas Johnson), Jon Hill (2007-08, Walkersville High School), and Matthew Centrowitz (2006-07, Broadneck High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Kollin 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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