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**LAFAYETTE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MISSOURI 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 Austin Hindman of Lafayette High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Missouri Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Hindman is the first Gatorade Missouri Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Lafayette 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 Hindman as Missouri'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, Hindman 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-3, 150-pound senior distance runner captured three individual titles and shared in another at the Class 5 state meet this spring, leading the Lancers to a second-place finish as a team. Hindman won the 800-meter run with a time of 1:55, the 1600 in 4:09.69 and broke the tape in the 3200 in 8:54.92 before anchoring the winning 4x800 relay quartet, which clocked a 7:59.30. He also took second place in the 3200 at the Arcadia Invitational with a time of 8:43.40—the fastest time in history by a Missouri runner and the nation's No. 2 performance among prep competitors in 2017 at the time of his selection.

Hindman has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout with the Boys Scouts of America where he has volunteered locally on behalf of multiple community service initiatives. "Austin Hindman is an impressive and rare talent," said Lafayette High head coach Matt Warren. "His competitive drive, focus and spirit are unparalleled. But what makes him so special is the type of fantastic person he is. He is his humble, gracious and kind and never boastful. He is a great teammate who puts others ahead of himself."

Hindman has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of Missouri 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.

Hindman joins recent Gatorade Missouri Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Chris Nilsen (2015-16, Park Hill High School), Carlos Davis (2014-15, Blue Springs High School), C.J. Jones (2013-14, Cardinal Ritter College Prep.), Ezekiel Elliott (2012-13, John Burroughs High School), Dapo Akinmoladun (2011-12, Grandview High School), Daniel Everett (2010-11, Westminster Christian Academy), Dorial Green (2009-10, Hillcrest High School), Nick Happe (2008-09, Francis Howell North High School), Maurice Mitchell (2007-08, Raytown South High School), and Andy Oaker (2006-07, Steelville High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Austin 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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