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**MCQUEEN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEVADA 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 Zachary Stallings of McQueen High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Nevada Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Stallings is the second Gatorade Nevada Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from McQueen 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 Stallings as Nevada'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, Stallings 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, 150-pound senior won the 800-meter run and 1,600-meter run and he also ran the anchor leg of the winning 4x800-meter relay team at the Division 4 state meet this past season, leading the Lancers to a third-place finish as a team. Stallings' winning time in the 800 of 1:51.49 ranked as the nation's No. 32 clocking among prep competitors this spring at the time of his selection. He also ranked No. 32 in the 1,500-meter run with a time of 4:00.03 and No. 36 in the mile run in 4:11.84.

Stallings has volunteered locally as part of community-beautification projects and he has donated his time feeding the homeless. "Zachary's improvement from junior to senior year is one of the greatest improvements I have ever seen in our program," said Ed Parise, head coach of McQueen High. "Zachary had a great work ethic the first day he came to us, however as a senior he took on the leadership role and made a major commitment to get better."

Stallings has maintained a weighted 3.53 GPA in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade award's broad criteria. He has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at Washington State University beginning 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.

Stallings joins recent Gatorade Nevada Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Zachary Hawley (2015-16, Dayton High School), Mark Rubalcaba (2014-15, Faith Lutheran High School), Dominic Smallwood (2013-14, Silverado High School), Randall Cunningham (2012-13, Bishop Gorman High School), Nick Hartle (2011-12 & 2010-11, Centennial High School), Garic Wharton (2009-10 & 2008-09, Valley High School), Joseph Abbott (2007-08, Galena High School), and Dell Guy (2006-07, Western High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Zachary 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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