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**CARDINAL GIBBONS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NORTH CAROLINA 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 Connor Lane of Cardinal Gibbons High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade North Carolina Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Lane is the first Gatorade North Carolina Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Cardinal Gibbons 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 Lane as North Carolina'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, Lane 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 state's 2016-17 Gatorade Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year, the 6-foot, 140-pound senior won the 1600-meter run with a time of 4:17.58 and the 3200 in 8:59.9 at the Class 4A state meet this past season. Lane's personal-best time of 8:47 in the 3200 this spring is a state record and ranked as the nation's No. 6 performance among prep competitors in 2017 at the time of his selection. He also won the 3000 at the Penn Relays Carnival in 8:24.01.

An active member of his school's student council, Lane has donated his time preparing and serving lunch at a local soup kitchen and has volunteered locally on behalf of youth running programs and blood-donation drives. "Connor possesses a very special focus," said Cardinal Gibbons coach Nick Mangum. "He's willing to train very hard for long periods of time without distraction."

Lane has maintained a weighted 5.15 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at Stanford 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.

Lane joins recent Gatorade North Carolina Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Marcus Krah (2015-16, Hillside High School), Keon Howe (2014-15, Mallard Creek High School), Trentavis Friday (2013-14, Cherryville High School), John Crossley (2012-13, West Carteret High School), Craig Engels (2011-12, Ronald Reagan High School), Eric Winfrey (2010-11, Douglas Byrd High School), Isaac Presson (2009-10, Asheville High School), Wayne Davis (2008-09, Southeast Raleigh High School), Dylan Ferris (2007-08, East Forsyth High School), and Jack Bolas (2006-07, Chapel Hill High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Connor 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.