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**DAVIES HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NORTH DAKOTA 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 Hunter Lucas of Davies High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade North Dakota Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Lucas is the first Gatorade North Dakota Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Davies 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 Lucas as North Dakota'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, Lucas 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-6, 130-pound senior won the 800-meter run, 1,600-meter run and 3,200-meter run at the Division A state meet this past season, leading the Eagles to a fifth-place finish as a team. Lucas, who also ran the anchor leg on the team's 4x800-meter relay quartet that finished fifth, was the top scorer at the meet with 30.5 points, and he topped all classifications in his trio of individual events. He concluded his prep track career with six state titles.

Lucas has volunteered locally at the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, a residential treatment facility for children. He has also donated his time as a youth skating coach. "Hunter Lucas had an outstanding track and field season," said Greg Falde, head coach of Shanley High. "He ran every race with a target on his back and with the expectation of coaches, peers and fans that he would eventually have a bad race. That didn't happen."

Lucas 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 Minnesota 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.

Lucas joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Zach Sweep (2015-16, Century High School), Jon Tharaldsen (2014-15, Bismarck High School), Landon Jochim (2013-14, Century High School), Jake Leingang (2012-13, Bismarck High School), Drew Wiseman (2011-12, Century High School), Brock Larson (2010-11, Fargo South High School), Brandon Barnes (2009-10, Bismarck High School), Ryan Todhunter (2008-09, Red River High School), Jason Duchsherer (2007-08, Bismarck High School), and Weston Leutz (2006-07, Century High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Hunter 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.