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**KNOCH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA 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 Jordan Geist of Knoch High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Geist is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Knoch 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 Geist as Pennsylvania'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, Geist 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-2, 255-pound senior hurled the shot put 76 feet to win the New Balance Nationals Outdoor championship this month, which ranked as the nation's No. 1 performance among prep competitors in 2017 at the time of his selection and placed him third in U.S. high school history. The state's returning Gatorade Boys Track and Field Athlete of the Year, Geist won the New Balance national title in the hammer throw as well, with an effort of 238-9—which also ranked No. 1 nationally this year—and he also placed second in the discus. He captured both the shot put (71-4.5) and the discus (207-6) at the Class AAA state meet for the third consecutive year.

Geist has volunteered locally as a Sunday school teacher and as a youth track instructor. "Jordan does the things that it takes to be good, and also the little things that it takes to be great," said Knoch coach Wes Brahler. "He's an outstanding student and athlete."

Geist has maintained a 3.77 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to on an athletic scholarship at the University of Arizona 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.

Geist joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Jordan Geist (2015-16, Knoch High School), John Lewis (2014-15, Cheltenham High School), Max Adams (2013-14, Hempfield Area Senior High School), Jon Yohman (2012-13, Wilmington Area High School), Billy Stanley (2011-12, South Park High School), Eric Futch (2010-11, Penn Wood High School), Tom Mallon (2009-10, Central Bucks South High School), Justin Shirk (2008-09 & 2007-08, Central Dauphin High School), and Reggie Carter (2006-07, Bensalem High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Jordan 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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