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**SYRACUSE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE UTAH 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 Woodhall of Syracuse High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Utah Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Woodhall is the second Gatorade Utah Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Syracuse 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 Woodhall as Utah'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, Woodhall 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, 160-pound senior won the 200-meter dash and the 400 dash at the Class 5A state meet this past season, leading the Titans to a second-place finish as a team. Woodhall runs with prostheses, having been born with a birth defect that left him without a calf bone in his left leg while his right ankle was fused at the joint. He tied a state record with his state-meet-winning time of 46.24, which ranked as the nation's No. 11 performance among all prep competitors this spring at the time of his selection. Woodhall, who earned silver in the 200 and bronze in the 400 at the Paralympic Games in Rio last year, also set national Paralympic records in both the 200 and the 400 at the state meet.

Woodhall has served as an ambassador for Shriners Hospitals for Children and he volunteered locally as an inspirational speaker at schools across the state. "Words cannot express the emotional journey it has been to be a part of Hunter's career," said Brian Berrong, head coach of Syracuse High. "As a coach, you dream of having such an athlete. Hunter is truly one of a kind."

Woodhall has maintained a 3.65 GPA in the classroom. As the first double amputee to earn a Division I scholarship, he has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of Arkansas 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.

Woodhall joins recent Gatorade Utah Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Casey Clinger (2015-16, American Fork High School), Chase Heiner (2014-15, Provo High School), Cam Dopp (2013-14, Woods Cross High School), Ben Saarel (2012-13, Park City High School), Brad Nye (2011-12, Davis High School), Tyler Sorensen (2010-11, Richfield High School), Evan Argyle (2009-10, Pleasant Grove High School), Tyrell Yardley (2008-09, Syracuse High School), Luke Puskedra (2007-08, Judge Memorial Catholic High School), and Adam McDonald (2006-07, Mountain View 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.

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