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**CHANTILLY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE VIRGINIA 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 Brandon McGorty of Chantilly High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Virginia Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. McGorty is the first Gatorade Virginia Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Chantilly 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 McGorty as Virginia'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, McGorty 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-6, 170-pound senior won the 800-meter run and 1,600 at the Group 6A state meet for a second straight year this spring, leading the Chargers to a 10th-place finish as a team. McGorty's top 800 time of 1:48.71 at the Group 6A North Region meet ranked as the nation's No. 2 performance among prep competitors in 2017 at the time of his selection. In March, he set a state record in the 800 at New Balance Nationals Indoor with a time of 1:50.29, which ranks No. 6 in prep history. The 2017 Washington Post All-Met Indoor and Outdoor Runner of the Year, he concluded his high school running career with 12 state titles.

McGorty has volunteered locally as a youth track coach and elementary school teacher's aide. He has also donated his time as part of multiple community-service initiatives through the Chantilly High National Honor Society. "Brandon McGorty is a quality athlete that strives to win in every competition he enters," said Kelly Deegan, head coach of Westfield High. "I can't imagine a more talented, dedicated and successful athlete."

McGorty has maintained a 3.82 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at Stanford 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.

McGorty joins recent Gatorade Virginia Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Grant Holloway (2015-16 & 2014-15, Grassfield High School), John Warren (2013-14, Prince George High School), Michael Cherry (2012-13, Oscar Smith High School), Ahmed Bile (2011-12, Annandale High School), Isaiah Simmons (2010-11, Woodbridge High School), Darrell Wesh (2009-10, Landstown High School), Tyler Stutzman (2008-09, Western Albemarle High School), Peter Dorrell (2007-08, Blacksburg High School), and Michael Morrison (2006-07, Great Bridge High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Brandon 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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