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**SOUTH HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WEST 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 Freddy Canary of South Harrison High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade West Virginia Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Canary is the first Gatorade West Virginia Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from South Harrison 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 Canary as West 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, Canary 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-10, 170-pound junior set meet records in winning the 100-meter dash, 200 dash and 400 at the Group A state meet this past season, leading the Hawks to fourth-place finish as a team. Canary clocked the fastest all-class time in all three events. He also won the long jump to finish with a 40-point meet. He concluded his junior year with eight state titles in his prep track career.

Canary has volunteered locally at senior centers and as a youth track coach. "Freddy was amazing this season," said Chris Cress, head coach of Doddridge High. "While everybody knew he was fast all year, at the end of the season he put on an exhibition of his amazing talents. There was no doubt he was in a class all his own with his performance at the state meet."

Canary has maintained a 3.17 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Canary joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Tristan Slater (2015-16, Capital High School), Christian Buckley (2014-15 & 2013-14, Poca High School), Jacob Burcham (2012-13, 2011-12 & 2010-11, Cabell Midland High School), Brandon Franklin (2009-10, Liberty High School), Zach Tennant (2008-09, North Marion High School), Eric Myers (2007-08, Sissonville High School), and Josh Brown (2006-07, Jefferson High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Freddy 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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