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**HAMBURG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE ARKANSAS GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 21, 2018) — In its 33<sup>rd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Tiana Wilson of Hamburg High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Arkansas Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Wilson is the second Gatorade Arkansas Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Hamburg 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 Wilson as Arkansas' best high school girls track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year award to be announced in June, Wilson 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-11 senior swept the 100-, 200- and 400-meter dashes at the Class 4A state meet this past season, leading the Lions to a fifth-place finish as a team. The state's returning Gatorade Track & Field Athlete of the Year, Wilson set both meet and state records in winning the 100 (11.72 seconds) and the 200 (24.12) at the Arkansas Meet of Champions. She finished her high school career with 11 individual outdoor state championships—four in both the 100-meter dash and 200-meter dash, and three in the 400-meter dash.

A National Honor Society member and also an All-Conference basketball player, Wilson has donated her time to Upward Bound, a college preparatory program that helps students from low-income families. "Tiana is an awesome athlete but an even better student and person," said Lanny Allen, head coach of Hamburg High. "She is an extremely coachable young lady with a work ethic that is off the charts. She is an extraordinary teammate who wants all to do well."

Wilson has maintained a 3.86 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of Arkansas 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.

Two-time winner Wilson joins Gatorade Arkansas Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Jada Baylark (2015-16, Parkview Arts/Science Magnet High School), Lexi Weeks (2014-15, Cabot High School), Payton Stumbaugh (2013-14, 2012-13 & 2011-12, Har-Ber High School), Maggie Montoya (2010-11, Rogers High School), Grace Heymsfield (2009-10 & 2008-09, Elkins High School), Stephanie Foreman (2007-08, Lake Hamilton High School), and Natasha Shockey (2006-07, Russellville High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Wilson 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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