

Contact: Kelsey Rhoney (312-729-3685)

**CHRISTIAN ACADEMY OF KNOXVILLE STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE TENNESSEE GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 21, 2018) — In its 33rd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Rebecca Story of Christian Academy of Knoxville as its 2017-18 Gatorade Tennessee Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Story is the second Gatorade Tennessee Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Christian Academy of Knoxville.

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 Story as Tennessee's 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, Story 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 state's 2015-16 Gatorade Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year and the 2016-17 Gatorade Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year, the 5-foot-7 senior won the 800-meter run, the 1,600-meter run and the 3,200-meter run at the Division II, Class A state meet this past season, leading the Warriors to a third-place finish as a team. Story's top Mile run time of 4:49.57 at the Music City Distance Carnival ranked No. 14 in the nation among prep competitors at the time of her selection. Story also was ranked nationally in the 2-Mile (10:27.41, No. 15), 800 (2:10.91, No. 63) and 1,600 (4:54.18, No. 87). She concluded her prep running career with state records in the 1,600, Mile, 3,000 and 2-Mile.

Story has volunteered locally as a youth running coach, and she has donated her time to multiple community-service initiatives through her church youth group. "Rebecca is an incredibly gifted runner and an inspiring young lady," said Michael Morrison, CAK's cross country coach. "She works tirelessly at her craft and her success is a direct result of all of the work that she puts in."

Story has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at Stanford University 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.

Story joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Kethlin Campbell (2016-17, Shelbyville Central High School), Rebecca Story (2015-16, Christian Academy of Knoxville), Tamia Crockett (2014-15, Hardin Valley Academy), Brittany Kelly (2013-14 & 2012-13, Northeast High School), Jennifer Cannon (2011-12, Tennessee High School), Jordan Lavender (2010-11, University School of Nashville), LaQuisha Jackson (2009-10, Howard School), Sharika Nelvis (2008-09, Nortide), and Jackie Coward (2007-08 & 2006-07, West), among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Story 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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