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**PROVO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE UTAH 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 Meghan Hunter of Provo High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Utah Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Hunter is the first Gatorade Utah Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Provo 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 Hunter as Utah'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, Hunter 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-8 junior swept the 100-meter dash, the 200-meter dash, the 400-meter dash and the 800-meter run at the Class 5A state meet this past season, leading the Bulldogs to a fourth-place finish as a team. Hunter set a meet record in the 400 with a time of 53.14 seconds, while her best 400 time of the season, 52.59 at the Davis Invitational, is a state record and ranked No. 4 in the nation among prep competitors at the time of her selection. She also ranked No. 23 in the nation in the 800 (2:09.26) and No. 84 in the 200 (24.20), while her best 300-meter hurdle time of 43.49 just missed a top-100 national ranking.

The president of the PTSA at Provo High, Hunter has volunteered locally cleaning the houses of elderly neighbors, and she has donated her time as part of multiple community-service initiatives through her church youth group. "Meghan's spring track season was a treat to watch," said Mike Strauss, head coach of Mountain View High. "It's pretty amazing to see an athlete win a pair of individual events but four is a different level entirely."

Hunter has maintained a 3.99 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her 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.

Hunter joins recent Gatorade Utah Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Whitney Rich (2016-17, Bingham High School), Kaysha Love (2015-16, Herriman High School), Lucy Biles (2014-15, Herriman High School), Sarah Feeny (2013-14, Ogden High School), Brenna Porter (2012-13, Sky View High School), Ashleigh Warner (2011-12, Mountain View High School), Lauren Baxter (2010-11, Timpview High School), Kylie Hirschi (2009-10, Brighton), Tiffany Hellstrom (2008-09, Bonneville), and Natalie Stewart (2007-08 & 2006-07, Spanish Fork) 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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