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**THOMAS DALE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE VIRGINIA 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 Titiana Marsh of Thomas Dale High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Virginia Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Marsh is the first Gatorade Virginia Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Thomas Dale 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 Marsh as Virginia'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, Marsh 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 2014-15 Gatorade Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year, the 5-foot-5 senior won the national championship in the triple jump and finished as the runner-up in the long jump at the New Balance Nationals Outdoor this past season. Marsh's top triple jump of the season of 42 feet, 2.25 inches ranked No. 5 in the nation among prep competitors at the time of her selection. Her top long jump at NBNO of 19-9.75 ranked No. 13. Marsh missed the entire indoor track season and the first month of the outdoor season after an MRI in December revealed that she had spina bifida, a rare birth defect that affects the spine. She had to wear a brace every day for three months over the winter.

A co-founder of her school's Young Life club, Marsh is member of the Praise Ministry and Dance Ministry at her church. She has volunteered locally as a mentor to elementary-school students with special needs and as a peer tutor. "Titiana is a great athlete," said Harry Booth, head coach of Colonial Forge High. "She presents herself very well at meets."

Marsh has maintained a weighted 4.29 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of Georgia 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 Marsh joins Gatorade Virginia Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Brandee' Johnson (2015-16, Nansemond River High School), Titiana Marsh (2014-15, Thomas Dale High School), Chantel Ray (2013-14, Hampton High School), Felecia Majors (2012-13, South County High School), Megan Moye (2011-12, Cosby High School), Desmonae Gray (2010-11, Western Branch High School), Kathleen Stevens (2009-10, Blacksburg), Marlena Wesh (2008-09, Landstown), Natalie Baird (2007-08, Park View), and Catherine White (2006-07, North High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Marsh 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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