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**HIGH POINT CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NORTH CAROLINA GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 22, 2017) — In its 32<sup>nd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Tamara Clark of High Point Central High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade North Carolina Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Clark is the first Gatorade North Carolina Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from High Point Central 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 Clark as North Carolina'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, Clark 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-4 senior won two individual state championships and anchored the winning 4x100-meter relay quartet at the Class 4A state meet this past season. Clark won the 100-meter dash in 11.72 seconds and captured the 200 dash in 23.59, which ranked as the nation's No. 18 performance among prep competitors in 2017 at the time of her selection.

Clark has volunteered locally on behalf of youth running programs and has delivered motivational speeches at area middle schools. "Tamara has always worked very hard to be better," said High Point coach Wayne Jones. "She's been a team leader, and she always came to compete."

Clark has maintained a 3.39 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of Alabama 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.

Clark joins recent Gatorade North Carolina Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Anna Cockrell (2015-16 & 2014-15, Providence Day School), Sydnei Murphy (2013-14, Apex High School), Wesley Frazier (2012-13 & 2011-12, Ravenscroft School), Kendra Harrison (2010-11, Clayton High School), Sanura Eley O'Reilly (2009-10, Jack Britt High School), Aslynn Halvorson (2008-09, Butler High School), Jacinda Evans (2007-08, Southern High School), and Gabby Mayo (2006-07, Southeast Raleigh Magnet High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Tamara 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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