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**FAYETTEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE ARKANSAS BOYS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 30, 2017) — In its 32<sup>nd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Camren Fischer of Fayetteville High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Arkansas Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Fischer is the first Gatorade Arkansas Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Fayetteville 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 racecourse, distinguishes Fischer as Arkansas's best high school boys cross country runner. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year award to be announced in January, Fischer joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Lukas Verzbicas (2010-11, 2009-10 Carl Sandburg, Orland Park, Ill.), Megan Goethals (2009-10, Rochester, Rochester Hills, Mich.), Jordan Hasay (2008-09, Mission College Prep., San Luis Obispo, Calif.), Donn Cabral (2007-08, Glastonbury High School, Glastonbury, Conn.) and Chris Derrick (2007-08, Neuqua Valley, Naperville, Ill.).

The 5-foot-8, 135-pound sophomore won the Class 7A state meet this past season with a time of 15:40.8, breaking the tape 18.9 seconds ahead of his next-closest competitor and leading the Bulldogs to a second-place finish as a team. Fischer finished 21st at the Nike Cross Nationals South Regional championships to earn medalist honors. The Arkansas Activities Association Runner of the Year, he is a two-time Class 7A First Team All-State honoree.

Fischer has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics and as part of multiple community-service initiatives through his church. "Camren is a great runner," said Godfrey Siamusiye, head coach of Springdale High. "He does his best no matter what the competition brings. He is not afraid to set the pace and he always runs his own race."

Fischer has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his junior 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.

Fischer joins Gatorade Arkansas Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year T.J. Sugg (2015-16 & 2014-15, Har-Ber High School), Jacob Shiohira (2013-14 & 2012-13, Bentonville High School), Will Aenchbacher (2011-12, Bentonville High School), Christian Heymsfield (2010-11, Elkins High School), Christopher Marchman (2009-10, Sheridan High School), Cameron Efurd (2008-09, Rogers High School), and Aaron Hamilton (2007-08, Rogers High School) as athletes who have won the cross country award since its inception in 2007.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Fischer 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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