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**WINFIELD CITY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ALABAMA BOYS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 22, 2017) — In its 32nd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Trey Cunningham of Winfield City High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Alabama Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Cunningham is the first Gatorade Alabama Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Winfield City 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 Cunningham as Alabama's best high school boys track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year award to be announced in June, Cunningham 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 returning Gatorade Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year, the 6-foot-1, 165-pound senior clocked a time of 13.35 seconds in the 110-meter hurdles at April's Mobile Challenge of Champions, which ranked as the nation's No. 2 time among prep competitors this season at the time of his selection. Only five prep boys in history have run faster times. Cunningham also broke the tape in the 110 hurdles at the Class 4A state meet with a state-record time of 13.97. The teen added a fourth-place finish in the long jump (21 feet-4.75 inches) to lift the Pirates to second place as a team, but injured his hamstring on his lone leap and was forced to withdraw from two sprint events. As a junior, he took silver in the 110 hurdles at the 2016 New Balance Nationals Outdoor. Cunningham holds the World Junior (U20) record indoors in the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 7.60.

Having served as a student body representative, Cunningham has volunteered locally on behalf of a theater company and the Special Olympics in addition to donating his time coaching youth track athletes. "Trey has never let his accomplishments alter his humbleness," said Winfield City High School head coach Steve Reaves. "He's a true pleasure to coach and be around. He's a team-oriented athlete and a wonderful ambassador for high school track."

"Despite being affected by a few nagging injuries during his outdoor season, Cunningham still persevered to defend his state 110 hurdles title and remain a significant figure at the national level," said Erik Boal, editor for Dyestat.com. "He was also one of the stars of an exceptional New Balance Nationals Indoor meet, with his national high school and World Junior (U20) record performance in the 60-meter hurdles—a showcase of his speed, power and technical abilities."

Cunningham has maintained a 4.02 GPA in the classroom and has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at Florida State University beginning 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 Cunningham joins Gatorade Alabama Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Sean Collins (2014-15, McGill-Toolen Catholic High School), Jaalen Jones (2013-14, Thompson High School), Grant Hill (2012-13, Huntsville High School), Joseph Williams (2011-12 & 2010-11, Spain Park High School), Keenan Brock (2009-10, Carver High School), Patrick McGregor (2008-09, Hoover High School), Kyle Smith (2007-08, Daphne High School), and Zach Clayton (2006-07, Opelika High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Trey 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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