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**CANYON DEL ORO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ARIZONA 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 Turner Washington of Canyon del Oro High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Arizona Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Washington is the first Gatorade Arizona Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Canyon del Oro 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 Washington as Arizona'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, Washington 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 6-foot-5, 250-pound senior thrower hurled the discus 223 feet, two inches to win a national title at this month's New Balance Nationals Outdoor championships. His personal-best effort of 227-10.25 in the event this May ranked as the nation's No. 1 performance among prep competitors in 2017 at the time of his selection. The mark also ranks No. 4 in prep history. Washington captured individual titles in the discus at both the Arizona Meet of Champions (216-6) and the Division II state meet (218-7). He earned second-place in the shot put as well at the state meet with a personal-best toss of 65-1.5.

Washington has volunteered locally on behalf of youth track and field programs. "Turner Washington has the physical ability, coordination and motivation to be the best that he can possibly be," said Canyon del Oro High School head coach Rick Glider. "With what he's got, he's going to be a champion. It's exciting to see what he does and how far he's come."

Washington has maintained a 3.77 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of Arizona 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.

Washington joins recent Gatorade Arizona Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Connor Stevens (2015-16, Hamilton High School), Carlos Villarreal (2014-15, Rio Rico High School), Robert Grant (2013-14, Brophy College Preparatory), Bernie Montoya (2012-13, Cibola High School), Devon Allen (2011-12, Brophy College Preparatory), Billy Orman (2010-11, Tuba City High School), Brian Shrader (2009-10, Sinagua High School), Bryce Lamb (2008-09, Chandler High School), Allante Battle (2007-08, Desert Vista High School), and Cylend Simmons (2006-07, Westwood High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Turner 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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