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**OLPE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE KANSAS 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 Kyler True of Olpe High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Kansas Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. True is the first Gatorade Kansas Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Olpe 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 True as Kansas' 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, True 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, 140-pound senior won three individual events at the Class 1A state meet this past season and anchored the winning 4x800-meter relay quartet, leading the Eagles to second place as a team. True won the 800-meter run in 1:54.52, the 1600 in a meet-record 4:07.17 and the 3200 in another meet record clocking of 9:12.51. His winning time in the 1600 ranked as the nation's No. 8 performance among prep competitors in 2017 at the time of his selection. True also won the 1600 at the Kansas Relays.

A devoted member of his church community and a member of his school's student council, True has served as a mentor for young students and has volunteered locally on behalf of blood-donation drives, youth sports teams and the Adopt-a-Family program. "Kyler has the perfect combination of desire to excel and a work ethic that results in achieving the goals he has set," said Olpe coach Tom Camien. "He has a bright future with the fullest potential yet to be determined."

True has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at Oklahoma State University 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.

True joins recent Gatorade Kansas Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Noah Green (2015-16, Blue Valley Southwest High School), Willie Morrison (2014-15, Leavenworth High School), Kord Ferguson (2013-14 & 2012-13, Ottawa High School), Jonny Giess (2011-12, Blue Valley Northwest High School), Macauley Garton (2010-11, Mill Valley High School), Johannes Swanepoel (2009-10, Shawnee Mission South High School), Adonis Saunders (2008-09, Olathe North High School), John Talbert (2007-08, Kansas City East Christian Academy), and Eric Thomas (2006-07, Thomas More Prep) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Kyler 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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