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**NORTH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MINNESOTA 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 Jake Kubiatiowicz of North High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Minnesota Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Kubiatiowicz is the first Gatorade Minnesota Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from North 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 Kubiatiowicz as Minnesota'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, Kubiatiowicz 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-2, 243-pound senior captured an individual state title in the discus and earned silver in the shot put at the Class AA state meet, where he produced 18 of his team's 22 points. Kubiatiowicz captured the discus with a throw of 194 feet, six inches and put the shot 60-3.5 at the state meet. His personal-best effort of 199-7 in the discus at the Section 4AA championships ranked as the nation's No. 18 performance among prep competitors in 2017 at the time of his selection.

An accomplished pianist, Kubiatiowicz is a member of the National Honor Society, the Link Crew and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. "Jake Kubiatiowicz is a great leader," said North High assistant coach Eric Longtin. "He goes above everything expected of him. He is also not afraid to hold his teammates and classmates to those same expected standards. Jake makes those around him better. His is genuine, good-hearted, respectful and honest."

Kubiatiowicz has maintained a 4.05 weighted GPA in the classroom. He will attend the University of Pennsylvania this fall, where he will compete in track and field.

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.

Kubiatiowicz joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Jaret Carpenter (2015-16, Wayzata High School), Joe Klecker (2014-15, Hopkins High School), Payton Otterdahl (2013-14, Rosemount High School), Matt Neururer (2012-13, Pillager High School), Rilwan Alowonle (2011-12, Park High School), Mason Ferlic (2010-11, Mounds Park Academy), Macauley Spandl (2009-10, Moorhead High School), Casey Dehn (2008-09, Owatonna High School), Zach Mellon (2007-08, Buffalo High School), and Mike Torchia (2006-07, Rochester Lourdes High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Jake 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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