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**RIO RICO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ARIZONA GIRLS 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 Allie Schadler of Rio Rico High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Arizona Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Schadler is the first Gatorade Arizona Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Rio Rico 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 Schadler as Arizona's best high school girls track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year award to be announced in June, Schadler 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 5-foot-5 senior distance runner captured two individual state titles and shared in two others this spring, leading the Hawks to a third-place finish at the Division III state meet. Schadler won the 800-meter run with a time of 2:08.22 and the 1600-meter run in 5:08.20, then anchored the 4x400-meter relay with a winning time of 4:05.08 and the 4x800-meter relay in 9:54.25. The state's 2016-17 Gatorade Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year, Schadler's time of 10:05.70 in the 3200 at the Arcadia Invitational ranked as the nation's No. 4 performance among prep competitors in 2017 at the time of her selection.

A member of the National Honor Society and the Rotary International Interact Club, Schadler has volunteered locally on behalf of the Rich River Athletics Club. "I have yet to meet and to know a finer student, citizen, and athlete than Miss Allie Schadler," said Jeff Messer, the Exercise Science Department Chair at Mesa Community College. "Her athletic accomplishments are both incredibly prolific and extremely well-documented. Less well-recognized are the selfless character, peerless commitment, uncompromising dedication, and relentless competitiveness that characterize her as an exceptional individual."

Schadler has maintained a 4.56 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of Washington 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 Schadler joins Gatorade Arizona Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Dani Jones (2014-15, Desert Vista High School), Ky Westbrook (2013-14 & 2012-13, Chandler High School), Jaide Stepter (2011-12, Canyon del Oro High School), Hannah Carson (2010-11, Chandler High School), Jasmine Todd (2009-10 & 2008-09, Chandler High School), Hannah Carson (2007-08, Dobson High School), and Natalie Johnson (2006-07, Xavier College Preparatory) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Allie 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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