

**Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3656)**

**HAMBURG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE ARKANSAS GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 22, 2017) — In its 32<sup>nd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Tiana Wilson of Hamburg High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Arkansas Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Wilson is the first Gatorade Arkansas Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Hamburg 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 Wilson as Arkansas' 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, Wilson 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-11 junior sprinter captured three individual state titles this spring, leading the Lions to an eighth-place finish at the Class 4A state meet. Wilson won the 100-meter dash with a time of 12.00 seconds, the 200-meter dash in 25.19 and the 400-meter dash in 57.44. The 2017 Arkansas Preps Female Track Athlete of the Year, she concludes her junior year as a seven-time state champion in the sprints.

An elected member of her school's student council, Wilson has volunteered locally as a youth basketball coach. "Tiana Wilson is an awesome athlete but an even better student and person," said Hamburg High School head coach Lanny Allen. "If I had a daughter, I would want her to be just like Tiana."

Wilson has maintained a 3.82 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her senior year of high school 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.

Wilson joins recent Gatorade Arkansas Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Jada Baylark (2015-16, Parkview Arts/Science Magnet High School), Lexi Weeks (2014-15, Cabot High School), Payton Stumbaugh (2013-14, 2012-13 & 2011-12, Har-Ber High School), Maggie Montoya (2010-11, Rogers High School), Grace Heymsfield (2009-10, Elkins High School), Grace Heymsfield (2008-09, Elkins High School), Stephanie Foreman (2007-08, Lake Hamilton High School), and Natasha Shockey (2006-07, Russellville High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Tiana 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

###