

Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3656)

**BLOOMFIELD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE CONNECTICUT 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 Brittany Jones of Bloomfield High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Connecticut Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Jones is the third Gatorade Connecticut Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Bloomfield 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 Jones as Connecticut'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, Jones 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-7 senior won both the shot put and discus at the Class S state meet this past season, leading the Warhawks to the state championship as a team. Jones hurled the shot put a meet-record 45 feet, 10.75 inches, and launched the discus 138-3. She also won the shot put at the State Open championships and placed second in both the discus and shot put at the New England Championships. Jones' season-best effort of 47-6.5 in the shot put ranked as the nation's No. 20 performance among prep competitors in 2017 at the time of her selection.

A member of the National Honor Society, Jones has volunteered locally on behalf of youth track programs. "Brittany is the most determined young woman I have ever had the pleasure of coaching," said Bloomfield High School coach Anne Burrows. "When she started as a freshman, she thought she would follow the footsteps of her older brother and sister, who were both talented sprinters. When that didn't work out the way she had envisioned, she took on throwing. She's put in countless hours of hard work to make her the thrower she is today. She's rewritten our record books and she's not just talented in one of the throws, but all of them."

Jones has maintained a 3.73 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at the University of Virginia 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.

Jones joins recent Gatorade Connecticut Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Jessica Drop (2015-16, Coginchaug Regional High School), Danae Rivers (2014-15 & 2013-14, Wilbur Cross High School), Claire Howlett (2012-13, Westhill High School), Precious Holmes (2011-12 & 2010-11, Hillhouse High School), Lindsay Crevoiserat (2009-10, Glastonbury High School), Meg Ryan (2008-09, Fairfield Warde High School), Anna Shields (2007-08, Lewis Mills High School), and Shaniqua Burgess (2006-07, Hillhouse High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Brittany 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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