

Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3656)

**MIDDLETOWN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE DELAWARE 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 Daija Lampkin of Middletown High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Delaware Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Lampkin is the second Gatorade Delaware Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Middletown 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 Lampkin as Delaware'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, Lampkin 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-2 senior broke the tape in the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.85 seconds, the 200-meter dash in 23.76 seconds and anchored the winning 4x200 relay at the Division 1 state championships this past season. The state's returning Gatorade Girls Track and Field Athlete of the Year, Lampkin holds state records in the 100, 200 and 400. She placed second in the 200 at this month's New Balance Nationals Outdoor in 23.80, and finished seventh in the 100.

A member of the National Honor Society and a sports medicine assistant to the school's athletic trainer, Lampkin has also volunteered locally on behalf of her church and a food bank. "Daija Lampkin is the best female track athlete to ever come through Middletown High School," said Middletown High School coach Mary Kay Waltemire. "She sets her goals high, both on and off the field, and she gives it all she has to obtain those goals."

Lampkin has maintained a weighted 4.26 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at the University of Alabama 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 Lampkin joins Gatorade Delaware Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Ashley Bailey (2014-15, Middletown High School), Maiya Dendy (2013-14 & 2012-13, Padua Academy), Haley Pierce (2011-12 & 2010-11, The Tatnall School), Celina Emerson (2009-10, Delcastle Technical High School), Juliet Bottorff (2008-09, The Tatnall School), Brianna Kennedy (2007-08, Caravel Academy), and Nikko Brady (2006-07, Charter School of Wilmington) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Daija 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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