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**PIKE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE INDIANA 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 Lynna Irby of Pike High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Indiana Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Irby is the first Gatorade Indiana Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Pike 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 Irby as Indiana'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, Irby 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 won three individual state titles this past spring, sweeping the sprints for the fourth consecutive year. Indiana's two-time returning Gatorade Girls Track and Field Athlete of the Year, Irby won the 100-meter dash with a state-record time of 11.41 seconds, while capturing the 200 in 23.41 and the 400 in 53.81. She also broke the tape in the 400 at this month's New Balance Nationals Outdoor in 52.83, which ranked as the nation's No. 5 performance among prep competitors in 2017 at the time of her selection.

A student ambassador at her school, Irby has volunteered locally on behalf of youth sports camps. "Lynna has set the bar very, very high," said Pike head coach De Dee Nathan. "She's continued to improve every season, and no one has ever quite done what she has done, winning the sprints every year. She can only be matched, she can never be surpassed."

Irby has maintained a 3.69 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of Georgia 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.

Three-time winner Irby joins Gatorade Indiana Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Symone Black (2013-14, Concordia Lutheran High School), Brittany Neeley (2012-13, Eastern High School), Skyler Carpenter (2011-12, Westview High School), Tori Bliss (2010-11, Portage High School), Ellie McCardwell (2009-10, Pendleton Heights High School), Ellie McCardwell (2008-09, Pendleton Heights High School), Alex Banfich (2007-08, Culver Academies), and Katie Veith (2006-07, Homestead High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Lynna 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.