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**C.E. BYRD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE LOUISIANA 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 Kyah Loyd of C.E. Byrd High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Louisiana Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Loyd is the first Gatorade Louisiana Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from C.E. Byrd 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 Loyd as Louisiana'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, Loyd 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 three individual titles at the Class 5A state meet this spring, leading the Yellow Jackets to the state team title. Loyd broke the tape in the 100-meter dash in 11.70 seconds, then added victories in the 200 dash (a wind-aided 23.70) and the 100-meter high hurdles (13.75). Her clocking in the 100 hurdles represented a personal-best and ranked as the nation's No. 21 time among prep competitors in 2017 at the time of her selection. Loyd also captured silver in the 100 hurdles (13.88) and bronze in the 200 dash (24.46) at the Great Southwest Classic. At this past weekend's prestigious Brooks PR Invitational, she took silver in the 100 hurdles (13.91) and seventh in the 100 dash (12.28).

A member of the National Honor Society and her school's Spanish Club, Loyd as donated her time to a community service organization called Astra. She also serves as a school ambassador and youth track coach. "Loyd showcased why she's one of the most talented all-around athletes in the country with her performances at the state meet, helping Byrd secure a team championship," said Erik Boal, editor for Dyestat.com. "One of the nation's most underrated performers, Loyd has continued to build her resume as a hurdler and supports that talent with impressive range as a sprinter, demonstrated against elite fields at the Great Southwest Classic."

Loyd has maintained a 4.51 weighted GPA in the classroom and has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at Tulane University beginning 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.

Loyd joins recent Gatorade Louisiana Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Janie O'Connor (2015-16, Zachary High School), Hannah Jackson (2014-15, Sulphur High School), Mikiah Brisco (2013-14 & 2012-13, Baton Rouge Magnet High School), Marcquita Stalbert (2011-12, McDonogh 35 College Preparatory High School), Morgann LeLeux (2010-11, Catholic High School), Merritt Van Meter (2009-10, Metairie Park Country Day School), Kim Francis (2008-09, Nortide High School), Rachel Laurent (2007-08, Vanderbilt Catholic High School), and Rachel Laurent (2006-07, Vanderbilt Catholic High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Kyah 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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