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**PIONEER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MICHIGAN 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 Anne Forsyth of Pioneer High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Michigan Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Forsyth is the fifth Gatorade Michigan Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Pioneer 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 Forsyth as Michigan'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, Forsyth 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 state's returning Gatorade Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year, 5-foot-6 junior won the 1600-meter run at the Division 1 state meet this past season with a time of 4:43.84, which ranked as the nation's No. 3 performance among prep competitors in 2017 at the time of her selection. Forsyth also led the winning 4x800 relay team and placed second in the 3200, leading the Pioneers to the state championship as a team. She finished second in the mile at this month's New Balance Nationals Outdoor with a time of 4:47.83 and ran the lead leg on the second-place 4x800 relay.

Also a talented musician, Forsyth has volunteered on behalf of the American Red Cross and has participated in a service trip to a Native American reservation in South Dakota. "Anne is a true competitor and is extremely focused on doing her best in every race," said Pioneer coach Nancy Boudreau. "She now believes that she can be one of the best ever and is striving to obtain that goal."

Forsyth has maintained a 3.92 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.

Forsyth joins recent Gatorade Michigan Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Brianna Holloway (2015-16, Oak Park High School), Annie Fuller (2014-15, Manistee High School), Anna Jefferson (2013-14, Oak Park High School), Hannah Meier (2012-13, 2011-12 & 2010-11, Grosse Pointe South High School), Megan Goethals (2009-10 & 2008-09, Rochester High School), Ariel Roberts (2007-08, Pioneer High School), and Mary Angell (2006-07, Byron Center High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Anne 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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