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**CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEVADA 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 Talie Bonds of Centennial High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Nevada Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Bonds is the third Gatorade Nevada Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Centennial 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 Bonds as Nevada'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, Bonds 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-10 senior won the 100-meter high hurdles and the 300-meter intermediate hurdles at the Division 4 state meet this past season, leading the Bulldogs to a seventh straight state championship as a team. Bonds also placed second in the high jump. Her state-winning 100 hurdles time of 13.86 seconds ranked as the nation's No. 32 clocking among prep competitors this spring at the time of her selection and is No. 2 all-time in Nevada behind her older sister Tiana, who was the 2013-14 Gatorade State Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Bonds ranked among the nation's top 50 in the 300 hurdles as well this spring with a personal-best time of 42.88. She also won the heptathlon at the Great Southwest Classic.

She has volunteered locally at a hospice center and with a support group for underprivileged teens. "Talie Bonds is one of the hardest-working, most determined athletes I have ever worked with," said Roy Session, head coach of Centennial High. "She is an amazing young lady."

Bonds has maintained a weighted 3.72 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at Utah State 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.

Bonds joins recent Gatorade Nevada Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Jessica Ozoude (2015-16, Spanish Springs High School), Vashti Cunningham (2014-15, Bishop Gorman High School), Tiana Bonds (2013-14, Centennial High School), Ashlie Blake (2012-13, Liberty High School), Gabby Williams (2011-12 & 2010-11, Reed High School), Karli Johonnot (2009-10, Centennial High School), Michaelanne Laurent (2008-09, Coronado High School), Kayla Sanchez (2007-08, Carson High School), and Katie Palmer (2006-07, Boulder City High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Talie 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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