

Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3656)

**GRANTS PASS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OREGON 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 Deshae Wise of Grants Pass High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Oregon Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Wise is the first Gatorade Oregon Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Grants Pass 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 Wise as Oregon'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, Wise 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-8 senior won three individual events at the Class 6A state meet this past season, leading the Lady Cavers to third place as a team. The two-time Class 6A Female Track and Field Athlete of the Year, Wise won the 100-meter high hurdles with a time of 13.96 seconds, the 300-meter intermediate hurdles in 42.86 and the 100-meter dash in 11.97. She also ran a leg for the third-place 4x100 relay quartet.

The secretary of her senior class, Wise has volunteered locally on behalf of a food bank and an elementary school literacy-outreach initiative. She is also the founder of the Youth Ending Slavery club, which raises awareness about human trafficking. "What sets Deshae apart is a blend of athleticism, mental toughness, work ethic and drive," said Grants Pass coach Jennifer Yriarte. "She put in hours of early morning work-outs when no one else was around in cold or extremely hot temperatures."

Wise has maintained a 3.72 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of California 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.

Wise joins recent Gatorade Oregon Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Ella Donaghu (2015-16, Grant High School), Maddie Rabing (2014-15, Lakeridge High School), Ella Donaghu (2013-14, Grant High School), Haley Crouser (2012-13, 2011-12 & 2010-11, Gresham High School), Kellie Schueler (2009-10, 2008-09 & 2007-08, Summit High School) and Chrissi Grizzel (2006-07, Jefferson High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Deshae 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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