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**BARABOO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WISCONSIN 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 Josie Schaefer of Baraboo High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Schaefer is the first Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Baraboo 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 Schaefer as Wisconsin'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, Schaefer 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 6-foot-1 senior won the discus and the shot put at the Division 1 state meet this past season, leading the Thunderbirds to a sixth-place finish as a team. Schaefer's season-best discus toss of 171 feet at the Division 1 Baraboo Regional meet ranked as the nation's No. 6 performance among prep competitors this spring at the time of her selection. She also ranked No. 18 nationally with her state-winning shot of 47-8. She owns the state record in the discus courtesy of her 176-3 effort at the USATF Junior National Outdoor Championships in June of 2016, which ranks as one of the Top 50 throws in prep history.

Schaefer has volunteered locally as a youth volleyball, basketball and track coach, and she has donated her time as part of multiple community-service initiatives with the Baraboo High National Honor Society. "Josie is one of the hardest-working student-athletes that I have worked with in my 10 years of coaching track and field," said Annie Hinkhouse, head coach of Baraboo High. "She rarely takes a day off. Her career as an athlete has been tremendous and well deserved through her hard work and desire to excel."

Schaefer has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of Wisconsin 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.

Schaefer joins recent Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Mikaela Grant (2015-16, Jefferson High School), Cami Davre (2014-15, Whitefish Bay High School), Kennedy Blahnik (2013-14, 2012-13 & 2011-12, Algoma High School), Dezerea Bryant (2010-11 & 2009-10, Bradley Tech.), Brea Tinney (2008-09, Osceola High School), Megan Rennhack (2007-08, Dodgeland High School), and Hannah Gronning (2006-07, Shell Lake High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Josie 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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