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**FAYETTEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ARKANSAS BOYS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 21, 2018) — In its 33rd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Camren Fischer of Fayetteville High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Arkansas Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Fischer is the first Gatorade Arkansas Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Fayetteville 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 Fischer as Arkansas' best high school boys track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year award to be announced in June, Fischer 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 reigning Gatorade Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year, the 5-foot-10, 137-pound junior swept the 800-, 1600- and 3200-meter run at the Class 7A state meet this past season, leading the Bulldogs to a third-place finish as a team. In addition, Fischer captured the 3200 at the Arkansas Meet of Champions in 9:18.35, the state's best time this spring. He also produced the state's best times in the 800 (1:55.06, set at the 7A West Conference Meet) and the 1600 (4:20.03, set at the Texas Relays). Fischer won the Festival of Miles in May, clocking a 4:13.03, which ranked No. 41 in the country at the time of his selection. His time of 15:31.66 in the 5K at the Texas Distance Festival was good for No. 61 in the country.

Fischer has donated his time to multiple community-oriented activities through his church, including participating in a service-mission trip to Puebla, Mexico. He has also volunteered locally with the Dawg Crew, performing community and school service projects, and he has mentored students at Owl Creek Middle School. "For the past 15 years as track coaches at Fayetteville High, our staff has been blessed with some great athletes, but Camren separates himself by what he is accomplishing on the track, in school and for the community," said Fayetteville head coach Drew Yoakum. "This award sums up what he is all about and has displayed since day one. He is more than a great athlete, and that is why he is deserving."

Fischer has maintained an unweighted 3.87 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his 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.

Fischer joins recent Gatorade Arkansas Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Jake Benninghoff (2016-17, Rogers High School), Zach Jewell (2015-16, Dollarway High School), Henri Murphy (2014-15, Dollarway High School), Brandon Workman (2013-14, Rogers High School), Mark Guffin (2012-13, Little Rock Christian Academy), Chase Lamers (2011-12, Rogers High School), Andrew Irwin (2010-11 & 2009-10, Mt. Ida High School), Caleb Cross (2008-09, Newport), Jason Pelletier (2007-08, Bryant), and Spencer McCorkel (2006-07, Bryant) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Fischer 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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