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**KINGSLEY-PIERSON/WOODBURY CENTRAL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE IOWA BOYS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 21, 2018) — In its 33<sup>rd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Nick Phelps of Kingsley-Pierson/Woodbury Central as its 2017-18 Gatorade Iowa Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Phelps is the first Gatorade Iowa Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Kingsley-Pierson/Woodbury Central.

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 Phelps as Iowa's 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, Phelps 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, 215-pound senior won both the shot put and discus throw in leading the Cats to a 10th-place finish in Class 2A at the Iowa State High School Track & Field Championships this past season. Phelps broke the all-class state meet record by putting the shot 67 feet, 2 inches—a distance that ranked No. 6 in the nation at the time among prep competitors in 2018 of his selection. Phelps won the state title in the discus with a throw of 185-9. Phelps's career-best discus effort came at April's Harlan Cycle Invitational, a toss of 196-2.5 ranked No. 8 in the nation. The Sioux City Journal Co-Male Athlete of the Year, the combined distance on his best throws (263-4) is the third-best in the nation.

A standout football punter and baseball player at Woodbury Central, Phelps is a two-time First-Team All-State selection in football and the Iowa Preps Punter of the Year. He has volunteered locally with the Humane Society and he has donated his time as a youth throws coach and youth referee as well as raking lawns for the elderly and assisting with Bingo night at his local church. "Nick is the best all-around thrower I've ever seen in the state of Iowa," said Andrew TerWee, the throwing coach at West Lyon High. "He's an impressive athlete and an impressive young man. He's very deserving of this award."

Phelps has maintained a 3.89 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to compete on scholarship in football and track and field at North Dakota State University 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.

Phelps joins recent Gatorade Iowa Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Tristan Wirfs (2016-17, Mount Vernon High School), Ryan Schweizer (2015-16, Gilbert High School), Thomas Pollard (2014-15, Gilbert High School), Josh Evans (2013-14 & 2012-13, Linn-Mar High School), Conner Smock (2011-12, Lisbon High School), Kevin Lewis (2010-11, Ottumwa High School), Kyle Dunn (2009-10, Linn-Mar), Omet Kak (2008-09, North), Jarred Herring (2007-08, Burlington), and Zac Sandvig (2006-07, Valley) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Phelps 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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