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**STRAYHORN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MISSISSIPPI 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 Cameron Crump of Strayhorn High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Mississippi Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Crump is the first Gatorade Mississippi Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Strayhorn 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 Crump as Mississippi'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, Crump 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 returning Gatorade Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year, the 6-foot-2, 170-pound senior sprinter/jumper repeated as a four-time individual gold medalist at the Class 2A state meet this past season, sweeping the sprints and winning the long jump to lift the Mustangs to a second-place finish as a team. Crump produced a personal best in the 100-meter dash with a wind-aided time of 10.59 seconds and PR'd in the long jump with a leap of 24 feet, 8.5 inches, also winning the 200 (21.57) and the 400 (50.62). He concludes his prep track career as a four-time state champion in the long jump.

A member of his school's Rotary International Interact Club, Crump helps to coordinate and execute two service projects a year, one that helps the school or community and another that promotes international understanding. "After already winning four individual state titles last year, the expectations were incredibly high this year for Cameron and he lived up to all of them," said Erik Boal, an editor for Dyestat.com. "Highlighted by nearly a two-foot improvement in his long jump, Crump nearly delivered a 2A state team title all by himself before Strayhorn fell just a few points short of the championship. He again demonstrated impressive range by repeating in the 100, 200 and 400."

Crump has maintained a 3.44 in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade award's broad criteria. He has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at Mississippi 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.

Two-time winner Crump joins Gatorade Mississippi Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year DeMichael Harris (2015-16 & 2014-15, Saint Aloysius High School), Terrell Smith (2013-14, Vicksburg High School), Evan Osborne (2012-13, Pearl High School), Justin Fondren (2011-12, Oxford High School), Sam Kendricks (2010-11, Oxford High School), Marcus Jackson (2009-10, J.Z. George High School), Willie Calvin (2008-09, Greenville-Weston High School), Morris Kersh (2007-08, Pearl High School), and Daniel Simpkins (2006-07, Madison Central High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Crump 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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