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**ORANGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NORTH CAROLINA 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 Jamar Davis of Orange High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade North Carolina Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Davis is the second Gatorade North Carolina Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Orange 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 Davis as North Carolina'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, Davis 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-5, 190-pound senior soared 49 feet, 10.75 inches to win the triple jump and leapt 23-5 to capture the long jump at the Class 3A state meet this past season. Davis also took second in the 300-meter intermediate hurdles with a time of 38.02 seconds. He finished fifth in the triple jump at this month's New Balance Nationals Outdoor with a distance of 50-3.25, which ranked as the nation's No. 7 performance among prep competitors in 2018 at the time of his selection.

A member of the Beta Club, Davis has volunteered locally on behalf of youth soccer and wrestling camps. "Jamar is a very dedicated and coachable young athlete," said Orange coach Eric Stephens. "He has a highly defined work ethic and he's been a student of the sport, even reaching out to help coach younger teammates."

Davis has maintained a weighted 4.40 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at North Carolina 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.

Davis joins recent Gatorade North Carolina Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Connor Lane (2016-17, Cardinal Gibbons High School), Marcus Krah (2015-16, Mallard Creek High School), Keon Howe (2014-15, Mallard Creek High School), Trentavis Friday (2013-14, Cherryville High School), John Crossley (2012-13, West Carteret High School), Craig Engels (2011-12, Ronald Reagan High School), Eric Winfrey (2010-11, Douglas Byrd High School), Isaac Presson (2009-10, Asheville High School), Wayne Davis (2008-09, Southeast Raleigh High School), Dylan Ferris (2007-08, East Forsyth High School), and Jack Bolas (2006-07, Chapel Hill High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Davis 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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