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**BENSON POLYTECHNIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE OREGON 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 Micah Williams of Benson Polytechnic High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Oregon Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Williams is the third Gatorade Oregon Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Benson Polytechnic 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 Williams as Oregon'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, Williams 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 5-foot-8, 170-pound sophomore set a pair of meet records at the Class 6A state meet this past season, winning the 100-meter dash in a time of 10.42 seconds and capturing the 200-meter dash in 21.19. Williams also took second in the 100 at the Brooks PR Invitational. His state championship time in the 100 ranked as the nation's No. 15 performance among prep competitors in 2018 at the time of his selection.

Williams has volunteered locally on behalf of youth sports programs. "Micah has tremendous poise for someone his age," said Benson coach Leon McKenzie. "He sets goals and goes to great lengths to attack his training and achieve those goals. He has an internal drive that I haven't seen in many athletes, ever."

Williams has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his junior 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.

Williams joins recent Gatorade Oregon Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Henry Mong (2016-17, Franklin High School), Harrison Schrage (2015-16, Jesuit High School), Julian Body (2014-15, Jesuit High School), Matthew Maton (2013-14, Summit High School), Beau Brosseau (2012-13, Oregon City High School), Jefferson Jarvis (2011-12, Hidden Valley High School), Ryan Crouser (2010-11, Sam Barlow High School), Sam Crouser (2009-10, Gresham High School), Elijah Greer (2008-09, Lake Oswego High School), Nathan Mathabane (2007-08, Lincoln High School), and Kenny Klotz (2006-07, Central Catholic High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Williams 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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