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**NANSEMOND RIVER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE VIRGINIA 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 Daiqwaun Faircloth of Nansemond River High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Virginia Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Faircloth is the first Gatorade Virginia Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Nansemond River 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 Faircloth as Virginia'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, Faircloth 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-2, 175-pound senior won the 110- and 300-meter hurdles at the Group 5A state meet this past season, leading the Warriors to an eighth-place finish as a team. Faircloth's gold medal 110-hurdles clocking of 13.78 seconds ranked No. 3 in the nation among prep competitors in 2018 at the time of his selection. His tape-breaking run of 37.26 in the 300 hurdles ranked No. 26 in the nation. He also won a pair of national championships during the indoor season as a member of Nansemond River relay squads.

Faircloth has volunteered locally with Shatter the Silence, a program that talks to youth about suicide awareness. He has also donated his time at area homeless shelters. "Daiqwaun is a great track athlete," said Melvin Queen, head coach of Hickory High. "What makes him special is that he showcases his talent through his technique. He really wanted to show everyone he was a complete athlete who can score points at the state level in multiple events.

Faircloth has maintained a B average 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 Virginia Commonwealth 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.

Faircloth joins recent Gatorade Virginia Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Brandon McGorty (2016-17, Chantilly High School), Grant Holloway (2015-16 & 2014-15, Grassfield High School), John Warren (2013-14, Prince George High School), Michael Cherry (2012-13, Oscar Smith High School), Ahmed Bile (2011-12, Annandale High School), Isaiah Simmons (2010-11, Woodbridge High School), Darrell Wesh (2009-10, Landstown), Tyler Stutzman (2008-09, Western Albemarle), Peter Dorrell (2007-08, Blacksburg), and Michael Morrison (2006-07, Great Bridge) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Faircloth 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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