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**BISHOP O'DOWD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE CALIFORNIA GIRLS 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 Tierra Robinson-Jones of Bishop O'Dowd High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade California Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Robinson-Jones is the first Gatorade California Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Bishop O'Dowd 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 Robinson-Jones as California's best high school girls track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year award to be announced in June, Robinson-Jones 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-10 senior won the 200-meter dash with a time of 23.66 seconds and the 400-meter dash in 52.37 seconds at the state championship meet this past season. Robinson-Jones' winning time in the 400 ranked as the nation's No. 3 performance among prep competitors in 2018 at the time of her selection.

Also a talented musician, Robinson-Jones has participated in multiple community service initiatives in association with the Black Student Union. "A student-athlete like Tierra only comes into your program once in a generation," said Bishop O'Dowd coach Jamal Cooks. "She knows her strengths, identifies her weaknesses and creates strategies to fix the issues. She's a born leader who is willing to do extra, without acknowledgement or credit, to positively benefit the team."

Robinson-Jones has maintained a 3.18 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at Texas A&M 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.

Robinson-Jones joins recent Gatorade California Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Shae Anderson (2016-17, Norco High School), Elena Bruckner (2015-16, Valley Christian High School), Jasmyne Graham (2014-15, Eleanor Roosevelt High School), Ariana Washington (2013-14, Long Beach Poly High School), Sasha Wallace (2012-13 & 2011-12, Castro Valley High School), Amy Weissenbach (2010-11, Harvard-Westlake School), Ashton Purvis (2009-10, Saint Elizabeth High School), Anna Jelmini (2008-09, Shafter High School), Christine Babcock (2007-08, Woodbridge High School), and Tori Anthony (2006-07, Castilleja School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Robinson-Jones 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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