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**ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MASSACHUSETTS GIRLS 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 Samantha Friborg of Acton-Boxborough Regional High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Friborg is the first Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Acton-Boxborough Regional 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 Friborg as Massachusetts' 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, Friborg 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-9 senior won the 800-meter run with a time of 2:07.27 at the state meet this past season. Friborg took fourth at this month's New Balance Nationals Outdoor in the 800, and her time of 2:06.13 ranked No. 5 in the nation this spring among prep competitors at the time of her selection.

An accomplished violinist, Friborg served as an Acton-Boxborough High Ambassador and has volunteered locally on behalf of multiple community service initiatives through her church. "Samantha is really aggressive every time she steps on the track," said Steve Lane, head coach of Concord-Carlisle High. "She has a clear target in terms of time that she trying to hit and really goes after it. At every meet, my athletes stop whatever they are doing to watch her race."

Friborg has maintained a weighted 4.22 GPA in the classroom. She will attend Yale University, where she will compete in track, 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.

Friborg joins recent Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Clare Martin (2016-17, Newton South High School), Margie Cullen (2015-16, Needham High School), Brianna Duncan (2014-15, Cambridge Rindge & Latin School), Karina Shepard (2013-14 & 2012-13, Dracut High School), Carla Forbes (2011-12, Newton North High School), Nadia Eke (2010-11, Holy Name Central Catholic High School), Deanna Latham (2009-10, Triton Regional High School), Emily Jones (2008-09 & 2007-08, The Bromfield School), and Arantxa King (2006-07, Medford High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Friborg 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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