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**EDINA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MINNESOTA 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 Emily Kompelien of Edina High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Minnesota Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Kompelien is the first Gatorade Minnesota Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Edina 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 Kompelien as Minnesota'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, Kompelien 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 senior won the 800-meter run and the 1600-meter run this spring, leading the Hornets to a sixth-place finish in Class AA at the Minnesota State Track and Field Championships. Kompelien's 1600 time of 4:46.36 was just two-tenths of a second off the state record, but set a new school record in addition to being the No. 14 clocking in the country among prep competitors in 2018 at the time of her selection. Kompelien's 2:10.25 in the 800 was also a new school record and good for No. 48 in the country. She also owns the school record in the 3200-meter run. Kompelien finished this year undefeated, breaking meet records in both the 800 and 1600 at the Lake Conference Championships. She also set a new meet record in the 1600 at the Section 6AA Championship.

Kompelien has donated her time as a SMATH (science and math) tutor every day at school for one hour. She also has volunteered locally at soccer camps and by offering private speed and agility training, as well as helping to make food at Simpson Housing Services for the homeless. "Emily is the epitome of what a top athlete should be: hard-working, focused, determined, but also caring, compassionate, and supportive of those around her," said Lynn Sosnowski, head coach of Edina High.

Kompelien has maintained a weighted 4.14 GPA in the classroom. She will attend Brown University this fall, where she will run cross-country and track.

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.

Kompelien joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Anna Keefer (2016-17, St. Michael-Albertville High School), Jedah Caldwell (2015-16, Chanhassen High School), Ruby Stauber (2014-15, Wayzata High School), Shaina Burns (2013-14, Lakeville South High School), Maggie Ewen (2012-13 & 2011-12, St. Francis High School), Analisa Huschle (2010-11 & 2008-09, Bagley High School), Jessica January (2009-10, Richfield High School), Kylie Peterson (2007-08, Apple Valley High School), and Megan Geyen (2006-07, Watertown-Mayer High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Kompelien 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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