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**GOVERNOR LIVINGSTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW JERSEY 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 Victoria Vanriele of Governor Livingston High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade New Jersey Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Vanriele is the first Gatorade New Jersey Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Governor Livingston 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 Vanriele as New Jersey'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, Vanriele 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-6 sophomore won her second consecutive Meet of Champions title in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:06.68 this past season. Vanriele also broke the tape in the 800 in 2:09.73 at the Group 2 state meet, while capturing the 400 in 55.33 and anchoring the winning 4x400 relay quartet. She took third in the 800 at this month's New Balance Nationals Outdoor in 2:05.99, which ranked as the nation's No. 5 performance among prep competitors in 2018 at the time of her selection.

Also a talented musician and a devoted member of her church community, Vanriele has raised funds to benefit hunger relief efforts and has participated in an anti-bullying campaign. "Victoria's current trajectory takes her into—and I would argue, at this point in her career, past—some pretty exclusive company," said Governor Livingston coach Daniel Guyton. "Our team's exposure to her work ethic each day in practice and to her astonishing achievements on race day have infected our entire program. She has raised the bar for everyone."

Vanriele has maintained a 4.35 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her 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.

Vanriele joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Sydney McLaughlin (2016-17, 2015-16 & 2014-15, Union Catholic Regional High School), Keturah Orji (2013-14, Mount Olive High School), Olivia Baker (2012-13, Columbia High School), Ajeé Wilson (2011-12 & 2009-10, Neptune High School), Myasia Jacobs (2010-11, Paramus Catholic High School), Jillian Smith (2008-09, Southern Regional), Melanie Thompson (2007-08, Voorhees), and Danielle Tauro (2006-07, Southern Regional) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Vanriele 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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