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**RED RIVER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NORTH DAKOTA 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 Shelby Frank of Red River High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade North Dakota Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Frank is the third Gatorade North Dakota Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Red 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 Frank as North Dakota'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, Frank 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-11 sophomore won the shot put and the discus throw at the Division A state meet this past season, leading the Roughriders to a third-place finish as a team. Frank's winning discus effort of 155 feet, 11 inches was the top distance across all state classifications by more than 38 feet. Her personal-best discus throw of 160-0 ranked No. 16 in the nation among prep competitors this spring at the time of her selection.

Frank has volunteered locally as a youth track coach and she has donated her time as part of multiple community service initiatives through her church. "Shelby's numbers should stand for themselves," said Disa Salandar, head coach of Minot High. "She is so far ahead of her competitors that she can still win any disc competition in the state when she's not at her best."

Frank has maintained a 3.58 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.

Frank joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Karly Ackley (2016-17 & 2015-16, Grand Forks Central High School), Ashley Rone (2014-15, Red River High School), Brittany Brown Otter (2013-14, Bismarck High School), Amanda Levin (2012-13, West Fargo High School), Morgan Milbrath (2011-12 & 2010-11, Minot High School), and Laura Roesler (2009-10, 2008-09, 2007-08 & 2006-07, Fargo South), among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Frank 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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