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**U-32 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE VERMONT 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 Molly McCreedy of U-32 High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Vermont Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. McCreedy is the first Gatorade Vermont Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from U-32 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 McCreedy as Vermont'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, McCreedy 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 senior set a state record in the shot put at the Division II state meet this past season, leading the Raiders to a second-place finish as a team. McCreedy's shot of 45 feet, 11.25 inches broke a 19-year-old record by nearly 3 feet and ranked No. 31 in the nation among prep competitors at the time of her selection. The shot put champion at the New England Championships, she also won the discus at the state meet.

A violinist in the Green Mountain Youth Symphony, McCreedy is a member of Stage 32, which focuses on the technical side of theater production. She has also volunteered locally as a camp counselor. "Molly is an athlete who is very focused on improving her throwing technique," said Mark Chaplin, head coach of U-32 High. "She progressed steadily throughout her high school career."

McCreedy has maintained a 3.72 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the State University of New York at Buffalo 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.

McCreedy joins recent Gatorade Vermont Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Sonia John (2016-17, Rice Memorial High School), Katherine Cowan (2015-16, St. Johnsbury Academy), Kayla Gilding (2014-15, South Burlington High School), Autumn Eastman (2013-14 & 2012-13, Champlain Valley Union High School), Mollie Gribbin (2011-12 & 2010-11, South Burlington High School), Hannah Rowe (2009-10 & 2008-09, St. Johnsbury Academy), Sarah Sherman (2007-08, Essex), and Lydia Bickford (2006-07, Peoples Academy) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, McCreedy 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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