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**AMERICAN HERITAGE SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE FLORIDA BOYS 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 Anthony Schwartz of American Heritage School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Florida Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Schwartz is the first Gatorade Florida Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from American Heritage 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 Schwartz as Florida's best high school boys track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year award to be announced in June, Schwartz 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 world Youth record-holder in the 100- and 200-meter dash, the 6-foot, 180-pound senior authored two individual Florida sprint records at the Class 2A state meet this spring, in addition to sharing in a state 4x100-meter relay record to help the Patriots finish second as a team. Schwartz clocked the nation's fastest wind-legal high school 100 in 2018—10.09 seconds—with his win at June's Great Southwest Classic. The time ranks No. 4 in U.S. prep history. He also broke the tape in the 200 at the Sam Burley Hall of Fame Invitational in 20.47, which ranked as the nation's No. 2 time among prep competitors in 2018, and No. 18 all-time. Running the anchor leg of the 4x100 at the state meet, he led American Heritage to the No. 15 time in U.S. prep history as the quartet ran a 40.14. Schwartz capped his prep career by beating a 100-meter field that included collegiate runners to capture a national title at June's USATF Junior Outdoor Championships with a time of 10.23. He now owns the No. 4, No. 6, No. 8 (10.16), No. 9 (10.17) and No. 13 (10.21) 100-meter clockings in the history of American high school track.

Schwartz has volunteered extensively on behalf of his local Optimist International Club's football and track & field programs, where he himself began his journey as a youth athlete. "One of the most gifted high school sprinters in history, Anthony repeatedly rose to the occasion against elite competition," said Erik Boal, an editor for Dyestat.com. "His showcase in the 100, 200 and 4x100 relay at the Florida 2A state final cemented his legacy alongside (former national Gatorade winner) Trayvon Bromell, (former Gatorade state winner) Jeff Demps and Marvin Bracy as the most talented all-time Florida prep sprinters. Schwartz also gave us a preview of what the future holds by winning the USATF Juniors title in the 100 against several impressive collegiate freshmen."

Schwartz has maintained a 3.92 weighted GPA in the classroom and has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship in both football and track at Auburn University, beginning 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.

Schwartz joins recent Gatorade Florida Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Damion Thomas (2016-17 & 2015-16, Northeast High School), Samson Moore (2014-15, Gaither High School), Kendal Williams (2013-14, Stanton College Preparatory School), Trayvon Bromell (2012-13, Gibbs High School), Arman Hall (2011-12, St. Thomas Aquinas High School), Armando del Valle (2010-11, Columbus High School), Cody Riggs (2009-10, St. Thomas Aquinas), Neamen Wise (2008-09, Lake Brantley), Jeff Demps (2007-08, South Lake), and Justin Harbor (2006-07, Flagler Palm Coast) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Schwartz 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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