

**LAKE HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ARKANSAS BOYS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 24, 2019) — In its 34th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Haze Farmer of Lake Hamilton High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Arkansas Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year**. Farmer is the second Gatorade Arkansas Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Lake Hamilton 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 Farmer as Arkansas' 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, Farmer 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 6-foot-1, 165-pound senior won the pole vault at the Class 5A state meet with a meet-record leap of 17 feet, 3.25 inches this past season, leading the Wolves to a second-place finish as a team. Farmer jumped a personal-best 17-7 at the Arkansas Vault Club School's Out Open earlier this month which ranked No. 1 in the nation among prep competitors at the time of his selection. He is also a two-time winner of the Arkansas Decathlon Championships.

Farmer has volunteered locally as a youth vaulting coach. "Haze is a phenomenal pole vaulter," said Philip Goodwin, head coach of Mountain Home High. "What makes him an all-around athlete is that he is not only a pole vaulter. He runs relays and the open 400."

Farmer has maintained a 3.07 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of Georgia 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. From the 12 national winners, one male and one female athlete are each named Gatorade High School Athlete of the Year. In all, 607 athletes are honored each year.

Farmer joins recent Gatorade Arkansas Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Camren Fischer (2017-18, Fayetteville High School), Jake Benninghoff (2016-17, Rogers High School), Zach Jewell (2015-16, Mena High School), Henri Murphy (2014-15, Dollarway High School) and Brandon Workman (2013-14, Rogers High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Farmer also has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of his choosing. He is also eligible to submit an essay to win one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants for the organization of choice, which will be announced throughout the year.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit www.Gatorade.com/POY, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.