## MIDDLETOWN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE DELAWARE BOYS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**CHICAGO** (June 24, 2019) — In its 34<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Brahmir Vick of Middletown High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Delaware Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year.** Vick is the first Gatorade Delaware Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Middletown 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 Vick as Delaware'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, Vick 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-9, 153-pound junior won the 110-meter high hurdles in a state-record time of 14:00 at the Meet of Champions this past season. Vick also ran a leg on the 4x100 relay, which won in 42.47. He placed fifth in the long jump.

A member of his school's student leadership committee, Vick has volunteered locally as a mentor for younger students. "From day one, Brahmir came into this season completely focused," said Middletown High School coach Eugene Ahmad. "All season, he stepped up in so many ways, and his determination and competitive nature helped set the tone for the entire team."

Vick has maintained a 3.41 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior 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. 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.

Vick joins recent Gatorade Delaware Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Connor Nisbet (2017-18, Wilmington Friends School), Edwin Rosembert (2016-17, Howard High School of Technology), Kevin Murray (2015-16, Charter School of Wilmington), Kieran Tuntivate (2014-15, Charter School of Wilmington) and Zach Schmelz (2013-14, St. Mark's High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Vick 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 studentathletes, visit <u>www.Gatorade.com/POY</u>, on Facebook at <u>www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u> or follow us on Twitter at <u>www.twitter.com/Gatorade</u>.