

**FORT MYERS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE FLORIDA 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 **Jacob Lemmon of Fort Myers High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Florida Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year**. Lemmon is the first Gatorade Florida Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Fort Myers 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 Lemmon 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, Lemmon 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-4, 208-pound senior swept the discus and shot put events at the 3A state meet, helping the Greenwave to an 11th-place finish as a team. It marked the third straight state title in the discus for Lemmon. His personal-best throw in the discus of 209 feet, 6 inches set a Florida record and ranked No. 2 nationally among prep competitors in the event in 2019 at the time of his selection. Lemmon's discus PR is the No. 35 performance by any prep boy nationwide since 2000. He graduates as the author of five of the 10 discus throws over 200 feet in state history.

An avid angler, hiker and cyclist, Lemmon has volunteered 400 hours of community service at the Marine Lab and Native Plant Nursery of the Sanibel/Captiva Conservation Foundation. He has also donated 350 hours of community service at the Sanibel Sea School. A past member of the Fort Myers High Model U.N. Club, math team, school newspaper staff, Mu Alpha Theta mathematics honor society and JROTC, Lemmon also competes for the Greenwave swim and weightlifting teams. "Jacob Lemmon is one of only five guys to throw over 200 feet so far this year and his personal-best of 209-6 ranks as the No. 35 throw by a prep male athlete since 2000," said Erik Boal, editor for Dyestat.com. "That's impressive stuff."

Lemmon has maintained a 3.90 state CUM GPA in the classroom and has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of Virginia 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.

Lemmon joins recent Gatorade Florida Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Anthony Schwartz (2017-18, American Heritage School), Damion Thomas (2016-17 & 2015-16, Northeast High School), Samson Moore (2014-15, Gaither High School) and Kendal Williams (2013-14, Stanton College Preparatory School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Lemmon 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.

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