

PIONEER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MICHIGAN 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 **Nick Foster of Pioneer High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Michigan Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year**. Foster is the second Gatorade Michigan Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Pioneer 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 Foster as Michigan'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, Foster 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, 135-pound senior swept the 1600-meter (4:12.32) and the 3200 (9:08.55) at the Division 1 state meet this past season, leading the Pioneers to second place as a team. Foster also anchored the winning 4x800 relay quartet. He won the mile run at the prestigious Brooks PR Invitational in 4:03.11, which ranked as the nation's No. 1 performance among prep competitors in 2019 at the time of his selection.

A peer tutor in his school, Foster has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics. "Nick is a great leader and he's very coachable," said Pioneer coach Don Sleeman. "He's the best cross country and track runner in school history, and that dates back to 1856."

Foster has maintained a 3.92 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in cross country and track and field on scholarship at the University of Michigan 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.

Two-time winner Foster joins Gatorade Michigan Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Cole Johnson (2016-17, Rockford High School), Connor Bandel (2015-16, Oxford High School), and Grant Fisher (2014-15, Grand Blanc High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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