

HAZELWOOD WEST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MISSOURI 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 **Justin Robinson of Hazelwood West High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Missouri Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year**. Robinson is the second Gatorade Missouri Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Hazelwood West 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 Robinson as Missouri'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, Robinson 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-8, 148-pound junior won three individual events and anchored the winning 4x200 relay quartet at the Class 5 state meet this past season, leading the Wildcats to the state championship as a team. Robinson won the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.56 seconds, the 200 in 21.96 and the 400 in a state-meet record 46.30. His season-best clocking of 44.84 in the 400 ranked as the nation's No. 1 performance among prep competitors in 2019 at the time of his selection. That time also ranks No. 2 in American prep history.

Robinson has volunteered locally as a mentor for younger athletes. "Justin has become the best high school 400 runner in the U.S., but that's not his goal," said Hazelwood West coach Tim Levine. "His goal is to be the best 400 runner, period. For the first time in my coaching career, one of my athletes has a legitimate chance to be an Olympian. It's no guarantee, but the talent, work ethic, focus and intangibles are all there."

Robinson has maintained a B average 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.

Robinson joins recent Gatorade Missouri Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year KC Lightfoot (2017-18, Lee's Summit High School), Austin Hindman (2016-17, Lafayette High School), Chris Nilsen (2015-16, Park Hill High School), Carlos Davis (2014-15, Blue Springs High School) and C.J. Jones (2013-14, Cardinal Ritter College Prep.) among the state's list of former award winners.

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