

**SENTINEL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MONTANA 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 **Rylan Ortt of Sentinel High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Montana Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year**. Ortt is the first Gatorade Montana Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Sentinel 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 Ortt as Montana'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, Ortt 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-2, 195-pound senior led the Spartans to a first-place finish as a team at the Class AA state meet this past season. Ortt won the javelin throw with a toss of 208 feet, 8 inches, beating his next-closest competitor by more than 20 feet. The throw ranked No. 5 in the nation among prep competitors in 2019 at the time of his selection.

Ortt has volunteered locally as a youth track and football coach. "Rylan is one of the most dedicated young men I have had the pleasure of coaching," said Craig Mettler, head coach of Sentinel High. "He leads by example. He has helped transform our program."

Ortt has maintained a 3.47 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at Montana State University 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.

Ortt joins recent Gatorade Montana Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Garrison Hughes (2017-18, Sidney High School), Dawson LaRance (2016-17, Billings Senior High School), Jake Perrin (2015-16, Flathead High School), and Dalton Daum (2014-15, Butte High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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