

**LINCOLN EAST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NEBRASKA 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 **Tyler Brown of Lincoln East High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Nebraska Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year**. Brown is the second Gatorade Nebraska Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Lincoln East 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 Brown as Nebraska'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, Brown 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-3, 205-pound junior won the discus throw and placed fourth in the shot put at the Class A state meet this past season, leading the Spartans to a 16<sup>th</sup>-place finish as a team. Brown's personal-best effort of 192 feet in the discus at the Lincoln Public Schools Open ranked No. 16 in the nation among prep competitors in 2019 at the time of his selection. The 15/16-year-old boys USA Track & Field Nebraska Association Junior Olympic Athlete of the Year in 2018, he placed ninth in the discus at this month's New Balance Nationals Outdoor.

Brown has volunteered locally with the YMCA of Lincoln and as a youth track coach. "Tyler was very good this spring," said Colin Johnston, head coach of Millard West High. "There wasn't anyone even close to him in the discus. What makes him special is his technique. His footwork—the way he transfers weight through his hips and his release—is really good for a high school kid. He's fun to watch."

Brown has maintained a 3.57 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.

Brown joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Mayson Conner (2017-18, York High School), Seth Hirsch (2016-17, Millard West High School), K.J. Cotton (2015-16 & 2014-15, Papillion-La Vista High School) and Kenzo Cotton (2013-14, Papillion-La Vista High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Brown 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](http://www.Gatorade.com/POY), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](http://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](http://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).

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