

**WEDDINGTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NORTH CAROLINA 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 **Kyle Durham of Weddington High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade North Carolina Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year**. Durham is the first Gatorade North Carolina Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Weddington 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 Durham as North Carolina'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, Durham 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, 135-pound senior won the 800-meter run with a time of 1:51.72 at the Class 3A state meet this past season, leading the Warriors to the state championship as a team. Durham also ran the lead leg on the first-place 4x400 relay and took second in the 1600. At the New Balance Nationals Outdoor earlier this month, he anchored the 4x800 relay quartet to a silver medal.

A talented musician, Durham has volunteered locally on behalf of Samaritan's Purse, an international, non-denominational, evangelical Christian disaster relief organization. "Kyle has more range than any athlete I've coached," said Weddington coach Rick Spencer. "His best event is the 800, but he can easily drop down to the 400 and he can move up to the 5K. His work ethic is contagious and perhaps his biggest contribution is the example he has set and the legacy he's left behind."

Durham has maintained a 3.34 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at North Carolina 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.

Durham joins recent Gatorade North Carolina Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Jamar Davis (2017-18, Orange High School), Connor Lane (2016-17, Cardinal Gibbons High School), Marcus Krahn (2015-16, Hillside High School), Keon Howe (2014-15, Mallard Creek High School) and Trentavis Friday (2013-14, Cherryville High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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