

**HICKORY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA 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 **Brock Grundy of Hickory High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year**. Grundy is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Hickory 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 Grundy as Pennsylvania'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, Grundy 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-5, 215-pound senior swept the discus and shot put events at the Class AA state meet this past season, launching the discus 183 feet, two inches and hurling the shot 60-9.5, lifting the Hornets to the state championship as a team. Grundy recorded a season-best effort of 189-0 in the discus, which ranked as the nation's No. 30 performance among prep competitors in 2019 at the time of his selection.

A devoted member of his church community, Grundy has volunteered locally on behalf of a food bank, youth sports camps and his community historical society. "Brock is a laid-back individual who puts his heart into everything throwing-related," said Hickory throws coach Jennifer Neider. "Throwing longer, lifting longer, training on the weekends. That's what sets him apart."

Grundy has maintained an A average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at Youngstown 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.

Grundy joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Ayden Owens (2017-18, North Allegheny Senior High School), Jordan Geist (2016-17 & 2015-16, Knoch High School), John Lewis (2014-15, Cheltenham High School) and Max Adams (2013-14, Hempfield Area Senior High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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