

**CLASSICAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE RHODE ISLAND 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 **Conor Murphy of Classical High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year**. Murphy is the seventh Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Classical 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 Murphy as Rhode Island'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, Murphy 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-11, 165-pound junior set a state record in the 800-meter run this past season, a personal-best clocking of 1:50.43 at the Bishop Hendricken Invitational. Ranked No. 5 in the nation among prep competitors in 2019 at the time of his selection, Murphy won the 800 at the New England Interscholastic Track & Field Championship meet and he finished third in the event at this month's New Balance Nationals Outdoor to earn All-American honors.

Murphy has volunteered locally as a youth track coach. "Conor had a great season," said Bill Haberek, head coach of Chariho High. "That 1:50 at Hendricken was something to see."

Murphy 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.

Murphy joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Jeffery Pedersen (2017-18, East Greenwich High School), D.J. Principe (2016-17, La Salle Academy), Bobby Colantonio (2015-16, Barrington High School), Jack Salisbury (2014-15, La Salle Academy) and Adam Kelly (2013-14, Barrington High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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