

**LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE SOUTH DAKOTA 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 Hiatt of Lincoln High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade South Dakota Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year**. Hiatt is the second Gatorade South Dakota Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Lincoln 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 Hiatt as South Dakota'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, Hiatt 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, 245-pound junior led the Patriots to a first-place finish as a team in the Class AA state meet this past season. Hiatt won the shot put and discus to lead the way, launching personal-bests in both events. His discus throw of 182 feet, 11 inches ranked No. 59 in the nation among prep competitors in 2019 at the time of his selection, while his 59-1 effort in the shot ranked No. 94.

A member of the Lincoln High Chamber Choir, Hiatt has volunteered locally on behalf of multiple community service initiatives through his church youth group. "What makes Tyler so good is his consistency," said Jason Wagoner, head coach of Roosevelt High. "He has a great combination of both strength and technique which makes him capable of putting together great marks on any given day."

Hiatt has maintained a 3.60 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.

Hiatt joins recent Gatorade South Dakota Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Trevor Begeman (2017-18, Selby Area High School), Collin Brison (2016-17, Lincoln High School), Mason Hericks (2015-16, Watertown High School), Brennan Schmidt (2014-15, Freeman High School) and Jack Lembcke (2013-14, Roosevelt High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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