

WHITEHAVEN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE TENNESSEE 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 **Emmanuel Bynum of Whitehaven High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Tennessee Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year**. Bynum is the first Gatorade Tennessee Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Whitehaven 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 Bynum as Tennessee'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, Bynum 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, 160-pound senior won the 400-meter dash at the prestigious Brooks PR Invitational this past season with a state-record time of 46.24 seconds. That personal-best clocking ranked No. 2 in the nation among prep competitors in 2019 at the time of his selection. Bynum initially set the 400-meter state record at the Division 1 Large State Meet—he broke the tape in 46.60 to eclipse a record that had stood since 1970. He also won the 100- and 200-meter dash at the state meet, leading the Tigers to a second-place finish as a team.

Bynum has volunteered locally with the Leaders of Tomorrow mentoring program. “Emmanuel is one of those athletes that comes through only every once in a while,” said Royce Myers, head coach of White Station High. “He’s naturally gifted.”

Bynum has maintained a 3.60 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of Tennessee 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.

Bynum joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Josh Sobota (2017-18 & 2016-17, Bearden High School), George Patrick (2015-16 & 2014-15, Brentwood Academy) and Harrison Williams (2013-14, Memphis University High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform “Play it Forward,” Bynum 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.