

HERRIMAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE UTAH 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 **Blake Freeland of Herriman High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Utah Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year**. Freeland is the first Gatorade Utah Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Herriman 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 Freeland as Utah'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, Freeland 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-8, 275-pound senior swept the shot put, discus and javelin events at the Class 6A state meet this past season, leading the Mustangs to a second-place finish as a team. Freeland's winning throw of 64 feet, 6 inches in the shot ranked No. 5 in the nation among prep competitors in 2019 at the time of his selection. His personal-best in the javelin, a distance of 188-4, ranked No. 82.

An All-State selection in track & field, football and basketball, Freeland was the Utah High School Athletic Association Spirit of Sport winner in 2018. He helped found a non-profit organization that helps students living in disadvantaged socio-economic conditions achieve post-secondary opportunities in athletics, and he has volunteered locally as a youth football coach. "Blake is just a natural athlete," said Taylor Hatch, head coach of West Jordan High. "He dominated throws in our region. His marks are very impressive."

Freeland has maintained a 3.79 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at Brigham Young 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.

Freeland joins recent Gatorade Utah Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Dallin Draper (2017-18, Delta High School), Hunter Woodhall (2016-17, Syracuse High School), Casey Clinger (2015-16, American Fork High School), Chase Heiner (2014-15, Provo High School) and Cam Dopp (2013-14, Woods Cross High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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