

**BURLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE VERMONT 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 **Simon Kissam of Burlington High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Vermont Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year**. Kissam is the first Gatorade Vermont Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Burlington 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 Kissam as Vermont'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, Kissam 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-9, 130-pound senior won the 3,000-meter run with a time of 9:02.29 at the Division I state meet this past season, leading the Seahawks to a third-place finish as a team. Kissam's personal-best clocking of 8:53.97 in the 3,000 this May broke a 37-year-old school record and ranked No. 91 in the nation among prep competitors in 2019 at the time of his selection. He also PR'd to finish second at state in the 1500 (4:09.02).

Kissam has volunteered locally with the Burlington High Environmental Club, and has donated his time by helping to build free mini-libraries around the city. "Simon has had the ability to surge late in races and hold off all Vermont challengers," said Chip Langmaid, head coach of St. Johnsbury Academy. "He was not afraid to take chances and build upon his successes."

Kissam has maintained an unweighted 4.06 GPA in the classroom. He will attend Williams College, where he will run for the cross country and track teams, 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.

Kissam joins recent Gatorade Vermont Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Zane Russom (2017-18, Mount Mansfield Union High School), Tyler Marshall (2016-17 & 2015-16, Champlain Valley Union High School) and Alec Eschholz (2014-15 & 2013-14, Mount Mansfield Union High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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