## LINCOLN EAST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEBRASKA BOYS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 29, 2020) — In its 35<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Tyler Brown of Lincoln East High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Nebraska Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Brown is the second Gatorade Nebraska Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Lincoln East 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 field, distinguishes Brown as Nebraska'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 July, Brown joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, 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 state's returning Gatorade Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year, the 6-foot-3, 210-pound senior took second in the discus at the USATF Junior Olympics last summer. A two-time USA Track & Field Nebraska Association Junior Olympic Athlete of the Year, Brown also placed ninth in the discus at the 2019 New Balance Nationals Outdoor. His personal-best throw of 192 feet in the event at the Lincoln Public Schools Open ranked as the nation's No. 16 mark among prep competitors during the 2019 spring season.

Brown has volunteered locally with the YMCA of Lincoln and as a youth track coach. "Tyler is never satisfied with his performance," said Bob White, head coach of Lincoln High. "He's always striving to be better through practice and repetition. He is truly a remarkable thrower."

Brown has maintained a weighted 3.44 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of Nebraska.

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. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Two-time winner Brown joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Mayson Conner (2017-18, York High School), Seth Hirsch (2016-17, Millard West High School), K.J. Cotton (2015-16, 2014-15 & 2013-14, Papillion-La Vista High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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.