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**CHEVERUS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MAINE GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 22, 2017) — In its 32nd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Emma Gallant of Cheverus High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Maine Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Gallant is the first Gatorade Maine Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Cheverus 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 Gallant as Maine's best high school girls track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year award to be announced in June, Gallant 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-6 freshman won the 200-meter dash at the New England High School Outdoor Championships this past season with a Class A record time of 24.81 seconds. Gallant also won the 100-meter dash at the Class A state meet in 12.60 and the 200 in 25.33, while also running legs on the winning 4x400 team and the second-place 4x100 squad, leading the Stags to a state championship as a team. She is the Southwestern Maine Activities Association Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field Athlete of the Year.

Also a soccer standout, Gallant has volunteered locally on behalf of the Girl Scouts of the USA. "Emma is smart, she's strong, she's fast and she's competitive," said Cheverus coach Steve Virgilio. "She's incredibly precocious—it's her first year of high school and she does things every time she steps on the track that most athletes will never do."

Gallant has maintained a 3.96 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her sophomore 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. 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.

Gallant joins recent Gatorade Maine Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Adelaide Cooke (2015-16, Falmouth High School), Kate Hall (2014-15, 2013-14 & 2012-13, Lake Region High School), Bethanie Brown (2011-12, Waterville High School), Abbey Leonardi (2010-11, 2009-10 & 2008-09, Kennebunk High School), Becky O'Brien (2007-08, Greely High School), and Chelsey Tewell (2006-07, York High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Emma will be able to select a national or local youth sports organization to receive a grant as part of the Gatorade Play It Forward program. Every Gatorade Player of the Year state winner receives a \$1,000 grant to donate and will have the opportunity to enter for an additional \$10,000 spotlight grant by writing a brief essay explaining why their selected organization deserves additional support. 12 spotlight grants - one for each sport - will be announced throughout the year.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. For more on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of past winners and the announcement of the Gatorade National Player of the Year, visit www.gatorade.com/poy.

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