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**THE BOLLES SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE FLORIDA GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 21, 2018) — In its 33<sup>rd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Caitlin Collier of The Bolles School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Florida Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Collier is the first Gatorade Florida Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from The Bolles 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 Collier as Florida'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, Collier 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 most decorated female track athlete in Florida high school history as the winner of 18 gold medals, the 5-foot-11 senior middle distance and distance talent captured two silvers at this month's USATF Junior National Championships (finishing second to collegians in both races) and clocked the No. 10 time in girls' prep history in setting a meet record in the mile at the adidas Boost Boston Games in May. Collier also swept the 800- and the 1600-meter run at the Class 2A state championships this past season, posting all-class best times, in addition to anchoring the first-place 4x800 relay quartet that broke the tape in a state-record 9:06.55. Her personal-best 2:00.85 in the 800 earlier this month is a state record, the nation's fastest girls high school time in 2018 and the No. 5 time in American girls' prep history. Her personal-best 4:44.51 in the 1600 ranks among the top 15 times in history among U.S. high school girls.

Collier has donated her time extensively as a youth camp counselor. "Caitlin joined an elite list this year by becoming only the third female prep athlete in history to run under 2:01 for the 800 as well as a sub-4:39 in the mile, joining former high school giants Mary Cain and Kim Gallagher," said Erik Boal, editor for Dyestat.com. "Her exceptional combination of speed and strength give her the ability to adapt to any racing style, as evidenced by her qualifying for July's IAAF World U-20 Championships in Tampere, Finland in both the 800 and 1,500."

Collier has maintained a 4.67 GPA in the classroom and has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at Stanford 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. 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.

Collier joins recent Gatorade Florida Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Symone Mason (2016-17, Miami Southridge Senior High School), Ka'Tia Seymour (2015-16, Palatka High School), Nicole Greene (2014-15, Ponte Vedra High School), Kaylin Whitney (2013-14, East Ridge High School), Kali Davis-White (2012-13, Boyd H. Anderson High School), Shayla Sanders (2011-12, Boyd H. Anderson High School), Robin Reynolds (2010-11, Miami Jackson High School), Kayla Parker (2009-10, Port St. Joe High School), Ebony Eutsey (2008-09 & 2007-08, Miami Southridge Senior High School), and Shataya Hendricks (2006-07, St. Thomas Aquinas High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Collier 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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