

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

CHICAGO (June 21, 2018) — In its 33rd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Maggie Liebich of Boise High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Idaho Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Liebich is the first Gatorade Idaho Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Boise 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 Liebich as Idaho'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, Liebich 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-8 junior set meet records in both the 800- and 1600-meter run in leading the Braves to a third-place finish at the Class 5A Idaho State Track & Field Championship this past season. Liebich's 4:46.87 run in the 1600 ranked No. 18 in the nation among prep competitors in 2018 at the time of her selection, while her time of 2:11.26 in the 800 ranked No. 81. Additionally, Liebich's clocking of 4:32.81 in the 1500-meter run at the Oregon Relays ranked No. 21 nationally, and her 4:54.44 performance in the mile at the Nike/Jesuit Twilight Relays was No. 40 overall.

In addition to competing for Boise on the track team, Liebich attends Riverside International School, where she plays basketball and was a First-Team Division 1A Western Idaho Conference selection this past winter. She donates her time as leader of the Plant Club at Riverside International, which is dedicated to the conservation and sustainability of the campus. Also a part of the Outdoor Leadership program at her school, Liebich has also volunteered locally with the Ridge to Rivers trail system to help maintain local hiking trails. "(Maggie) is dedicated to the process and takes all the necessary steps to be successful," said Aaron Olswanger, head coach at Boise High. "Her progression and improvement took her from a 5:13 1600 her freshman year to 5:01 sophomore year to 4:46 her junior year. That speaks volumes about her character and work ethic. She's also an outstanding cross-country runner in the fall. You won't find a more coachable athlete than Maggie."

Liebich has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her senior 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.

Liebich joins recent Gatorade Idaho Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Lexy Halladay (2016-17, Mountain View High School), Sara Christianson (2015-16, Borah High School), Emily Hamlin (2014-15 & 2013-14, Boise High School), Allison Jeffries (2012-13, Eagle High School), Brittany Owens (2011-12 & 2010-11, Borah High School), Allee Cooper (2009-10, Eagle High School), Liz Brandon (2008-09, Eagle High School), and Nicole Nielsen (2007-08 & 2006-07, Borah High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Liebich 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.

###