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**SUPERIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEBRASKA 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 Kalynn Meyer of Superior High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Nebraska Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Meyer is the first Gatorade Nebraska Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Superior 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 Meyer as Nebraska'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, Meyer 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 6-foot-3 sophomore finished first across all classes in both the shot put and the discus for the Wildcats at the Class C Championships this past season. Meyer's hurled the shot 48 feet, 2.5 inches to win the state title and the throw ranked No. 11 in the country among prep competitors this spring at the time of her selection. The discus all-class title was Meyer's second straight after she launched it 163-4. Meyer's personal-best of 167-6 at the Del Wicks Invitational in April ranked as the nation's No. 6 in 2018 effort at the time of her selection.

Also a volleyball and basketball standout, Meyer is a Student Council member and her FFA (Future Farmers of America) chapter treasurer. An active member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Meyer has donated her time as a lector in addition to volunteering locally as a youth volleyball and basketball coach, as well as working on behalf of multiple charity fundraising efforts. "Kalynn is one of the few athletes I have encountered that could be a Division I athlete in three different sports," said Deb Vorderstrasse, head coach at Thayer Central High. "She is the key factor in the team championships Superior has earned. She would represent the Gatorade honor well."

Meyer has maintained a 96.89 average in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Nebraska beginning in the fall of 2020.

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.

Meyer joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year MacKenzie Brandl (2016-17, Stanton High School), Chloe Akin-Otiko (2015-16, 2014-15, 2013-14 & 2012-13 Bellevue West High School), Clara Nichols (2011-12, Millard South High School), Aubree Worden (2010-11 & 2009-10, Scottsbluff High School), Kelli Budd (2008-09, Marian), Emily Sisson (2007-08, Millard North), and Natalie Willer (2006-07, Elkhorn) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Meyer 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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