

Contact: Kelsey Rhoney (312-729-3685)

**RANCHO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEVADA 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 Gizelle Reid of Rancho High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Nevada Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Reid is the first Gatorade Nevada Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Rancho 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 Reid as Nevada'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, Reid 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-4 senior won the 400-meter dash at the Class 4A state meet this past season, leading the Rams to a second-place finish as a team. Reid also finished second in the 200-meter dash and was a part of both the 4x100-meter relay and 4x400-meter relay gold-medal teams. Reid's top 400 time of 53.64 seconds is a state record and ranked No. 14 in the nation among prep competitors at the time of her selection, while her best 200 time of 23.81 seconds ranked No. 22 in the nation.

Reid has volunteered locally as a peer physics tutor and as a youth track coach. She has also donated her time to multiple community-service initiatives through her church. "Gizelle is a special athlete because she is a very hard worker and never makes excuses when it comes to training," said Prudence Jackson, head coach of Rancho High. "She is a team player and gives her best to what's good for the team."

Reid has maintained a weighted 3.64 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of Nevada Las Vegas 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.

Reid joins recent Gatorade Nevada Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Talie Bonds (2016-17 & 2013-14, Centennial High School), Jessica Ozoude (2015-16, Spanish Springs High School), Vashti Cunningham (2014-15, Bishop Gorman High School), Ashlie Blake (2012-13, Liberty High School), Gabby Williams (2011-12 & 2010-11, Reed High School), Karli Johonnot (2009-10, Centennial), Michaelanne Laurent (2008-09, Coronado), Kayla Sanchez (2007-08, Carson), and Katie Palmer (2006-07, Boulder City) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Reid 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.