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**EXETER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW HAMPSHIRE 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 Jacqueline Gaughan of Exeter High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Gaughan is the first Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Exeter 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 Gaughan as New Hampshire'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, Gaughan 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-1 senior won the 1600-meter run with a time of 4:58.37 and the 3200-meter run in a meet-record 10:14.35 at the Division 1 championships this past season, leading the Blue Hawks to the state title as a team. The state's two-time Gatorade Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year, Gaughan also placed second in the 800. She followed up with her third consecutive Meet of Champions title in the 3200, clocking a 10:15.5, and also became the first New Hampshire girls prep runner in history to break 10 minutes in the two-mile run, crossing the line in 9:59.40 at the Brooks PR Invitational.

A member of the Outing Club at her school, Gaughan has volunteered extensively for St. Michael's Parish Service Organization to benefit the needy. "Jacqueline is one of the most passionate and committed athletes that I've ever coached," said Exeter coach Joe Scascitelli. "She's a three-time All-American, highly motivated and strives to perform at the highest levels. Anything less than excellent is unacceptable to her."

Gaughan has maintained a 3.91 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in cross country and track and field on scholarship at the University of Notre Dame 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.

Gaughan joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Kristie Schoffield (2016-17, Merrimack Valley High School), Maegan Doody (2015-16, Oyster River High School), Hannah Parker (2014-15, 2013-14 & 2012-13, Coe-Brown Northwood Academy), Hillary Holmes (2011-12, Exeter High School), Krista Vincent (2010-11, Somersworth High School), Arianna Vailas (2009-10, Central), Jocelyn Briggs (2008-09, Winnacunnet), Anna Cioffredi (2007-08, Lebanon), and Kelsey Huckins (2006-07, Keene) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Gaughan 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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