

Contact: Kelsey Rhoney (312-729-3685)

**DAVIS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE CALIFORNIA BOYS 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 Sondre Guttormsen of Davis Senior High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade California Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Guttormsen is the first Gatorade California Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Davis Senior 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 Guttormsen as California's best high school boys track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year award to be announced in June, Guttormsen 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-1, 163-pound senior cleared a meet-record 17 feet, 10 inches to win the pole vault at the state championship meet this past season. Guttormsen also took second in the 110-meter high hurdles with a time of 14.02 seconds. His season-best vault of 18-2.75 broke the state record and ranked as the nation's No. 4 performance among prep competitors in 2018 at the time of his selection, and No. 7 in U.S. high school history.

Guttormsen has volunteered on behalf of youth track programs. "Sondre has natural talent, yes, but above all he is the product of hard work and dedication to his craft," said Davis' coach Spencer Elliott. "It's a cliché, but he is literally the first to arrive and the last to leave every day. He's been committed to the sport since he was a little kid."

Guttormsen has maintained an A average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at UCLA 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.

Guttormsen joins recent Gatorade California Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Joseph Anderson (2016-17, Upland High School), Michael Norman (2015-16 & 2014-15, Vista Murrieta High School), Nate Moore (2013-14, Castro Valley High School), Khalfani Muhammad (2012-13, Notre Dame High School), Darren Fahy (2011-12, La Costa Canyon High School), Remontay McClain (2010-11, Covina High School), Sean Krinik (2009-10, Valencia), Mac Fleet (2008-09, University City), German Fernandez (2007-08, Riverbank), and David Klech (2006-07, California) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Guttormsen 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.