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**PIONEER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MICHIGAN 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 Nick Foster of Pioneer High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Michigan Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Foster is the second Gatorade Michigan Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Pioneer 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 Foster as Michigan'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, Foster 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-10, 135-pound junior captured a national championship in the two-mile run with a time of 8:59.46 at this month's New Balance Nationals Outdoor. The state's reigning Gatorade Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year, Foster won the 3200-meter run at the Division 1 state meet in 9:07.93, took second in the 1600 and anchored the winning 4x800 relay quartet. His season-best times in the mile, two-mile, 1600 and 3200 all ranked among the nation's top 12 prep performances in 2018 at the time of his selection.

A peer tutor in his school, Foster has volunteered locally on behalf of the Interact Club, a community service arm of Rotary International. "Nick always puts forth the extra effort," said Pioneer coach Don Sleeman. "He is totally coachable and he cares about the team more than himself."

Foster has maintained a 3.96 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his 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.

Foster joins recent Gatorade Michigan Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Cole Johnson (2016-17, Rockford High School), Connor Bandel (2015-16, Grand Blanc High School), Grant Fisher (2014-15 & 2013-14, Grand Blanc High School), Cullen Prena (2012-13, Walled Lake Central High School), Garret Zuk (2011-12, Lakeland High School), Dartis Willis (2010-11, Detroit Country Day School), Omar Kaddurah (2009-10, Grand Blanc High School), Michael Atchoo (2008-09, Troy High School), Tommy Brinn (2007-08, Otsego High School), and Jay Bilsborrow (2006-07, Coldwater High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Foster 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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