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**BERTHA-HEWITT/VERNDALE STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MINNESOTA 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 Samuel Moore of Bertha-Hewitt/Verndale as its 2017-18 Gatorade Minnesota Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Moore is the first Gatorade Minnesota Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Bertha-Hewitt/Verndale.

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 Moore as Minnesota'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, Moore 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-5, 250-pound senior won the shot put and took second in the discus throw Class A at the Minnesota State High School League Championships this past season. Moore's title-winning shot put effort of 62 feet, 3.5 inches ranked No. 25 nationally among prep competitors this spring. Named the inaugural Mr. Minnesota Track & Field, Moore launched the discus 194-1.5 at the Section 6A Track & Field Finals, which broke his own school and section record, and was the state's best in 2018. That discus throw also ranked No. 13 nationally at the time of his selection.

A home-schooled student who was also a standout nine-man football player at Verndale Secondary School, Moore has volunteered locally as a junior counselor at his church's summer youth camp. He has also donated his time as a youth throwing coach. "I can't say enough good things about Sam," said Tom Stambaugh, head coach at Nevis High. "Just a super kid. Every time we went into a meet, my athletes knew there was a crowd watching. He's incredible."

Moore has maintained a 3.55 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to compete on scholarship in football and track and field at North Dakota State University 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.

Moore joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Jake Kubiadowicz (2016-17, North High School), Jaret Carpenter (2015-16, Hopkins High School), Joe Klecker (2014-15, Hopkins High School), Payton Otterdahl (2013-14, Rosemount High School), Matt Neururer (2012-13, Pillager High School), Rilwan Alowonle (2011-12, Park High School), Mason Ferlic (2010-11, Mounds Park Academy), Macauley Spandl (2009-10, Moorhead High School), Casey Dehn (2008-09, Owatonna High School), Zach Mellon (2007-08, Buffalo High School), and Mike Torchia (2006-07, Lourdes High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Moore 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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