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**WINNACUNNET HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NEW HAMPSHIRE BOYS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 21, 2018) — In its 33<sup>rd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Billy Powers of Winnacunnet High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Powers is the first Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Winnacunnet 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 Powers as New Hampshire'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, Powers 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-9, 145-pound senior broke the tape in the 110-meter high hurdles in a state-record 13.93 seconds at the state Meet of Champions this past season, and also captured the 300 intermediate hurdles crown in 38.30 seconds. The state's returning Gatorade Boys Track and Field Athlete of the Year, Powers swept both hurdle events at the New England Championships and the Division I championships. He placed fifth in the 110 hurdles at the New Balance Nationals Outdoor.

A talented musician, Powers has volunteered locally on behalf of the Interact Club, a community service arm of Rotary International. "Billy is a young man who doesn't give up and follows through on everything he starts," said Winnacunnet coach Kara Seager. "The way he runs track is literally the way he does everything: start out strong, finish stronger."

Powers has maintained a 3.33 GPA in the classroom. He will attend Cornell University this fall, where he will compete in track and field.

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.

Two-time winner Powers joins Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Sebastian Eaton (2015-16, Souhegan High School), Eli Moskowitz (2014-15, Souhegan High School), John Cioffredi (2013-14, Lebanon High School), Zak Jenkins (2012-13, Nashua North High School), Romario Bailey (2011-12, Stevens High School), D'Mahl McFadden (2010-11, Merrimack Valley High School), Dominic Filiano (2009-10, Lebanon High School), Mike Marshall (2008-09, Salem High School), Matt Paulson (2007-08, Central High School), and Tyler Dodds (2006-07, Hanover High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Powers 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

