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**RANCOCAS VALLEY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NEW JERSEY 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 Nickolas Mirabelli of Rancocas Valley Regional High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade New Jersey Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Mirabelli is the first Gatorade New Jersey Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Rancocas Valley Regional 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 Mirabelli as New Jersey'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, Mirabelli 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, 210-pound senior launched the javelin a state-record 227 feet, 10 inches at the Meet of Champions this past season, a throw that ranked as the nation's No. 2 performance among prep competitors in 2018 at the time of his selection. Mirabelli also won the javelin at the Group 4 state meet with a meet-record effort of 218-11, and he finished third in the event at this month's New Balance Nationals Outdoor.

A certified volunteer Emergency Medical Technician, Mirabelli has also donated his time locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and youth track clinics. "Nick's work ethic and constant drive to improve not only himself but his teammates are what truly set him apart," said Rancocas Valley coach Jeff Dzuramin. "He is a once-in-a-career type of athlete."

Mirabelli has maintained a weighted 4.24 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at Texas A&M 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.

Mirabelli joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Cory Poole (2016-17 & 2015-16, East Orange Campus High School), Taylor McLaughlin (2014-15, Union Catholic High School), Curtis Thompson (2013-14, Florence Township Memorial High School), Braheme Days Jr. (2012-13, Bridgeton High School), Sam Mattis (2011-12, East Brunswick High School), Nick Vena (2010-11, 2009-10, 2008-09 & 2007-08, Morristown High School), and Craig Forsys (2006-07, Colts Neck High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Mirabelli 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).

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