

**Contact: Kelsey Rhoney (312-729-3685)**

**CENTURY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NORTH DAKOTA 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 Levi Rockey of Century High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade North Dakota Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Rockey is the third Gatorade North Dakota Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Century 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 Rockey as North Dakota'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, Rockey 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, 225-pound senior led the Patriots to the Division A state championship this past season. Rockey won the shot put with a throw of 58 feet, 1 inch, and the discus with a mark of 168-8, winning both events for a second straight year. His season and personal-best discus throw of 178-6 ranked No. 96 in the nation among prep competitors in 2018 at the time of his selection. Rockey was undefeated in the state in both throwing events for the 2018 indoor and outdoor campaigns and was voted the 2018 North Dakota State and Field Senior Athlete of the Year.

A member of his local chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Rockey has volunteered locally as a youth football coach, and he has donated his time as part of multiple community service initiatives through his church youth group. "Without a doubt, I rank Levi among the hardest-working, most-dedicated and passionate throwers to have gone through our program," said Justin Miller, the Bismarck Legacy throwing coach. "Putting in large amounts of time in the offseason and nearly year-round training have led to his success."

Rockey has maintained a 3.14 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the 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.

Rockey joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Hunter Lucas (2016-17, Davies High School), Zach Sweep (2015-16, Bismarck High School), Jon Tharaldsen (2014-15, Bismarck High School), Landon Jochim (2013-14, Century High School), Jake Leingang (2012-13, Bismarck High School), Drew Wiseman (2011-12, Century High School), Brock Larson (2010-11, Fargo South High School), Brandon Barnes (2009-10, Bismarck High School), Ryan Todhunter (2008-09, Red River High School), Jason Duchsherer (2007-08, Bismarck High School), and Weston Leutz (2006-07, Century High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Rockey 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).

###