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**LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH CAROLINA 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 Keyshawn King of Liberty High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade South Carolina Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. King is the second Gatorade South Carolina Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Liberty 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 King as South Carolina'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, King 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-3, 185-pound senior won the triple jump and took second in the long jump at the Class AA state meet this past season, leading the Red Devils to an eighth-place finish as a team. King's personal-best triple jump of 51 feet, 4.25 inches at the Bojangles Track & Field Classic in April ranked No. 1 in the nation among prep competitors in 2018 at the time of his selection. A three-time state champion in the triple jump, he won 17 of the 18 jumping events he entered this spring.

An avid musician, King has volunteered locally with a worship band every week before school. He has also donated his time as a youth track and basketball coach. "Keyshawn is a really special athlete," said DeAnn Walpole, head coach of Southside Christian High. "I love how he was a role model to mine as well as other athletes."

King has maintained a 3.98 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at Stanford 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.

King joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year DJ Ledell (2016-17, River Bluff High School), Darrell Singleton (2015-16, Spartanburg High School), Tavien Feaster (2014-15, Spartanburg High School), Jaylen Bacon (2013-14, Lower Richland High School), Griffie Loy (2012-13, Bishop England High School), Brandon Sanders (2011-12, 2009-10 & 2008-09, Dreher High School), Chris Brown (2010-11, Hanahan High School), Marcus Rowland (2007-08, Dorman), and Mauricus Brown (2006-07, Westside) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, King 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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