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**SELBY AREA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH DAKOTA 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 Trevor Begeman of Selby Area High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade South Dakota Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Begeman is the first Gatorade South Dakota Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Selby Area 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 Begeman as South 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, Begeman 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-2, 243-pound senior set a meet record in the shot put at the Class B state championships this past season, leading the Herreid-Selby Area co-op team to a 10th-place finish. Begeman's title-winning throw of 60 feet, 2.25 inches ranked No. 61 in the nation among prep competitors in 2018 at the time of his selection. Also a football and basketball player, he was an All-Conference selection in all three sports as a junior and senior.

A singer who has been selected to the All-State choir all four years of high school, Begeman has served as vice president of the Selby High student council and has volunteered locally with the Boy Scouts of America. "One thing that always stood out to me about Trevor is that he is very humble," said Kelsey Weismantel, head coach of Eureka High. "He never hesitates to help someone else, even if they weren't on his team. He's an outstanding athlete."

Begeman has maintained a 3.83 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at South 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.

Begeman joins recent Gatorade South Dakota Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Collin Brison (2016-17, Lincoln High School), Mason Hericks (2015-16, Freeman High School), Brennan Schmidt (2014-15, Freeman High School), Jack Lembcke (2013-14, Roosevelt High School), Addison DeHaven (2012-13, Brookings High School), Tyler Schultz (2011-12, Custer High School), Tony Smoragiewicz (2010-11, Rapid City Central High School), Trevor Gebhart (2009-10, Washington), Alex Muntefering (2008-09, Parkston), Matt Tetzlaff (2007-08, T.F. Riggs), and Quincy Christie (2006-07, Pierre Riggs) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Begeman 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.