

## FOWLER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE CALIFORNIA GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**CHICAGO** (June 20, 2019) — In its 34<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Jocelynn Budwig of Fowler High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade California Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year**. Budwig is the first Gatorade California Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Fowler 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 Budwig as California's best high school girls track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year award to be announced in June, Budwig 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-5 senior won both the discus and shot put at the state championship meet this past season, launching the discus 171 feet, 10 inches and hurling the shot 49-2.75. Budwig's winning effort in the discus ranked as the nation's No. 2 performance among prep competitors at the time of her selection, while her mark in the shot put ranked No. 3.

Also a talented musician, Budwig has volunteered locally on behalf of a retirement home, youth track programs and her school's Link Crew. "It's amazing what Budwig has been able to accomplish," said Richard Parris, coach at Clovis West High. "She's a great student of the sport, she puts in a lot of time and she does all the little things behind the scenes. She's really dominated for the past two years."

Budwig has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at Auburn University beginning 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. From the 12 national winners, one male and one female athlete are each named Gatorade High School Athlete of the Year. In all, 607 athletes are honored each year.

Budwig joins recent Gatorade California Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Tierra Robinson-Jones (2017-18, Bishop O'Dowd High School), Shae Anderson (2016-17, Norco High School), Elena Bruckner (2015-16, Valley Christian High School), Jasmyne Graham (2014-15, Eleanor Roosevelt High School) and Ariana Washington (2013-14, Long Beach Poly High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Budwig also has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of her choosing. She is also eligible to submit an essay to win one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants for the organization of choice, which will be announced throughout the year.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit [www.Gatorade.com/POY](http://www.Gatorade.com/POY), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](http://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](http://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).