

MARIANAPOLIS PREPARATORY SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE CONNECTICUT GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 20, 2019) — In its 34th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Sydney Masciarelli of Marianapolis Preparatory School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Connecticut Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year**. Masciarelli is the first Gatorade Connecticut Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Marianapolis Preparatory 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 Masciarelli as Connecticut'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, Masciarelli 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-10 sophomore won the two-mile run with a time of 10:11.99 and captured the 5000-meter run in 16:16.20 at the New Balance Nationals Outdoor this past season. Also the state's Gatorade Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year, Masciarelli won the 800, the 1500 and the 3000 at the New England Prep School Track Association Division 3 Championship Meet. Her national-championship clocking in the 5000 and her season-best effort of 9:21.44 in the 3000 both ranked as the nation's No. 1 performances among prep competitors in 2019 at the time of her selection.

Also a basketball standout, Masciarelli has volunteered locally on behalf of a food pantry, youth basketball camps and the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots Foundation. "Sydney is immensely athletically gifted and she set a new personal record in nearly every meet," said Marianapolis distance coach Emily Gaudet. "She's never satisfied with just winning races; she has to feel that she performed at her best, and is always pushing to run faster."

Masciarelli has maintained a 3.51 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her junior year of high school 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.

Masciarelli joins recent Gatorade Connecticut Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Alexis Holmes (2017-18, Cheshire Academy), Brittany Jones (2016-17, Bloomfield High School), Jessica Drop (2015-16, Coginchaug Regional High School), and Danae Rivers (2014-15 & 2013-14, Wilbur Cross High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Masciarelli 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, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.