

## GOVERNOR LIVINGSTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEW JERSEY 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 **Victoria Vanriele of Governor Livingston High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade New Jersey Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year**. Vanriele is the first Gatorade New Jersey Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Governor Livingston 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 Vanriele as New Jersey'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, Vanriele 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-6 junior won her third consecutive Meet of Champions title in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:05.43 this past season. The state's returning Gatorade Girls Track and Field Athlete of the Year, Vanriele also won the 400 (55.02) and the 800 (2:08.36) at the Group 2 state meet. She took second in the 800 at the Brooks PR Invitational in 2:05.15, which ranked as the nation's No. 4 performance among prep competitors in 2019 at the time of her selection.

Also a talented musician and a devoted member of her church community, Vanriele has raised funds to benefit hunger relief efforts and has participated in an anti-bullying campaign. "Victoria continues to amaze, both on and off the track," said Governor Livingston coach Daniel Guyton. "What she's doing is astounding, and frankly, unmatched. She's been a leader, a role model and an inspiration."

Vanriele has maintained a weighted 4.60 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her senior 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.

Two-time winner Vanriele joins Gatorade New Jersey Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Sydney McLaughlin (2016-17, 2015-16 & 2014-15, Union Catholic Regional High School), and Keturah Orji (2013-14, Mount Olive High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Vanriele 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](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](https://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).