

HENNESSEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE OKLAHOMA 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 **Madison Collier of Hennessey High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year**. Collier is the first Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Hennessey 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 Collier as Oklahoma'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, Collier 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-7 sophomore won both the discus and the shot put at the state Meet of Champions this past season, launching the discus 145 feet, nine inches and hurling the shot 43-5.5. Collier also won the discus and placed second in the shot put at the Great Southwest Classic.

Collier has volunteered locally on behalf of community clean-up initiatives and youth track programs. "Next year will be my fifth decade coaching, and I haven't come across anybody who has worked harder as a thrower than Madison Collier," said Hennessey coach Mike Driskill. "She listens and absorbs everything that comes her way, and she's a very humble but intense competitor."

Collier has maintained a 3.69 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.

Collier joins recent Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Ally Ryan (2017-18 & 2016-17, Jenks High School), Carsyn Spurgeon (2015-16 & 2014-15, Vinita High School) and Baylor Reese (2013-14, Fairview High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Collier 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.

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