

MIFFLIN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA 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 **Skylar Ciccolini of Mifflin County High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year**. Ciccolini is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Mifflin County 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 Ciccolini as Pennsylvania'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, Ciccolini 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-11 senior hurled the javelin 169 feet, three inches to win the championship at the Class AAA state meet this past season. Ciccolini also won the national title at the New Balance Outdoor Nationals with a throw of 161-10, while her season-best of 184-2 at the Penn Relays ranked as the nation's No. 1 performance among prep competitors in 2019 as well as No. 2 in U.S. girls prep history.

A devoted member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Ciccolini has volunteered locally on behalf of youth track programs. "Skylar Ciccolini has rewritten the record books wherever she's competed," said Troy Herr, coach at Lampeter-Strasburg High. "Her drive, dedication, willingness to sacrifice, commitment to refining her craft and excellence under pressure separate her from other athletes."

Ciccolini has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at the University of Missouri 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.

Ciccolini joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Payden Montana (2017-18, Berwick Area Senior High School), Madison Wiltrout (2016-17 & 2014-15, Connellsville Area Senior High School), Chanel Brissett (2015-16, Cheltenham High School) and Brianna Schwartz (2013-14, Shaler Area High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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