

PROVO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE UTAH 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 **Meghan Hunter of Provo High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Utah Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year**. Hunter is the second Gatorade Utah Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Provo 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 Hunter as Utah'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, Hunter 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 state's returning Gatorade Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year, the 5-foot-9 senior led the Bulldogs to a first-place finish as a team in the Class 5A state meet this past season. Hunter came all the way back from tearing a knee ligament in October to win the 100-meter dash, the 200-meter dash, the 400-meter dash as well as run the anchor leg on Provo's winning 4x400-relay team. Hunter took second in the 400 at the Brooks PR Invitational, and her top time in the 400 of 53.35 seconds at the Great Southwest Classic ranked No. 13 in the nation among prep competitors at the time of her selection.

The president of the PTSA at Provo High School, Hunter has volunteered locally cleaning houses for elderly neighbors, and has donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church youth group. "Meghan has been one of the best runners to ever come out of the state of Utah," said Cody Fannesbeck, head coach of Skyridge High. "It is very rare to have an athlete that has dominated the three sprint events like she did in her high school career."

Hunter has maintained a 3.99 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at Brigham Young 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.

Two-time winner Hunter joins Gatorade Utah Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Whitney Rich (2016-17, Bingham High School), Kaysha Love (2015-16, Herriman High School), Lucy Biles (2014-15, Herriman High School) and Sarah Feeny (2013-14, Ogden High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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