

## **MADISON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE CALIFORNIA BOYS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 24, 2019) — In its 34<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Kenan Christon of Madison High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade California Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year**. Christon is the first Gatorade California Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Madison 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 Christon as California's best high school boys track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year award to be announced in June, Christon 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, 180-pound senior won the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.30 seconds and the 200-meter dash in 20.69 at the state championship meet this past season. Christon's clocking in the 100 tied the state meet record and ranked as the nation's No. 3 performance among prep competitors in 2019 at the time of his selection. His season-best time of 20.55 in the 200 ranked No. 2 nationally.

Also a football standout, Christon has volunteered on behalf of Habitat for Humanity and youth sports programs. "Kenan set goals that some said were too high for him, and he reached all of them," said Madison coach Jorge Reyes. "It takes more than skill to win a state championship, especially in California, and I've seen no one work harder at honing his talents and craft than Kenan."

Christon has maintained a 3.90 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in football on scholarship at the University of Southern California 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.

Christon joins recent Gatorade California Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Sondre Guttormsen (2017-18, Davis Senior High School), Joseph Anderson (2016-17, Upland High School), Michael Norman (2015-16 & 2014-15, Vista Murrieta High School), and Nate Moore (2013-14, Castro Valley High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Christon also has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of his choosing. He 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](http://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](http://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).