

## **MATTANAWCOOK ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MAINE 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 **Cayden Spencer-Thompson of Mattanawcook Academy** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Maine Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year**. Spencer-Thompson is the first Gatorade Maine Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Mattanawcook Academy.

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 Spencer-Thompson as Maine'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, Spencer-Thompson 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 6-foot-4, 165-pound senior set state-meet records in sweeping all three jumps at the Class C state meet this past season. The state's returning Gatorade Boys Track and Field Athlete of the Year, Spencer-Thompson soared 23 feet, 2.75 inches in the long jump and 48-3.75 in the triple jump, while clearing 6-11 in the high jump. He also won the long jump and triple jump at the New England Championships, and took bronze in the triple jump with a personal-best leap of 50-7 at the New Balance Nationals Outdoor, earning All-American status. The triple jump distance at nationals ranked as the nation's No. 3 performance among prep competitors in 2019 at the time of his selection.

Spencer-Thompson has volunteered locally on behalf of youth sports programs. "Cayden has been a special athlete from day one," said Mattanawcook Academy coach Bernice Stockley. "When he competes, he turns things up to a different notch."

Spencer-Thompson has maintained a 3.27 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at the University of Louisville 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 Spencer-Thompson joins Gatorade Maine Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Jake Koffman (2016-17, Orono High School), Sam Rusak (2015-16, Scarborough High School), Isaiah Harris (2014-15, Lewiston High School) and Daniel Curtis (2013-14, Ellsworth High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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

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