

EASTVIEW HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MINNESOTA BOYS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 24, 2019) — In its 34th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **AJ Green of Eastview High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Minnesota Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year**. Green is the first Gatorade Minnesota Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Eastview 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 Green as Minnesota'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, Green 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, 147-pound junior set a state record in the 800-meter run at the Section 3AA Championships this past season with a time of 1:49.83, which ranked No. 2 in the nation among prep competitors in 2019 at the time of his selection. Green also won the 800 at the Class AA state meet and the prestigious Brooks PR Invitational.

Green has volunteered locally at a food bank and homeless shelter, and has donated his time to multiple community-beautification projects. "Our 800 runner broke our school record during sections which was previously held by a future college All-American," said Lane Swansson, head coach of Woodbury High. "AJ Green beat our runner by six seconds."

Green has maintained a 3.97 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior 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.

Green joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Samuel Moore (2017-18, Bertha-Hewitt/Verndale), Jake Kubiawicz (2016-17, North High School), Jaret Carpenter (2015-16, Wayzata High School), Joe Klecker (2014-15, Hopkins High School) and Payton Otterdahl (2013-14, Rosemount High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Green 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, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.

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