

STRAKE JESUIT COLLEGE PREPARATORY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE TEXAS 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 **Matthew Boling of Strake Jesuit College Preparatory** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Texas Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year**. Boling is the first Gatorade Texas Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Strake Jesuit College Preparatory.

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 Boling as Texas' 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, Boling 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, 162-pound senior won the 100-meter dash at the Class 6A state meet this past season with a time of 10.13 seconds, which ranked as the nation's No. 1 performance among prep competitors in 2019 at the time of his selection. The clocking represents the fifth-fastest 100 in U.S. high school history and is No. 2 in the world among Under-20 competitors. Boling also won the long jump with a leap of 25 feet, 4.5 inches and anchored the victorious 4x400 relay quartet in 3:10.56. His wind-aided, personal-best effort of 9.98 in the 100 this April was the fastest all-conditions time ever by an American high school athlete. It's also the sixth-fastest wind-aided time in the world among men of all ages. Boling's season- and personal-best long jump of 26-3.5 ranked No. 2 in the nation this season and is also the U-20 world No. 2. The leap ranks eighth in American prep history.

Boling has served as a counselor at a camp for children with disabilities and has volunteered locally on behalf of Athletes Taking Action, shoe-donation drives for youth athletes in need and hurricane relief efforts, in addition to several other charitable endeavors. "Last year's Gatorade National Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year Anthony Schwartz is a tough act to follow, but Matthew Boling was definitely up to the challenge," said Erik Boal, editor for DyeStat. "He soared into the spotlight with an exceptional long jump performance in March, surpassing 26 feet at the Texas Relays, and continued to captivate crowds throughout the state over the next six weeks, both on the track and the jumps runway. Although he garnered the most national attention for running a wind-aided 9.98 seconds in the 100-meter dash, perhaps his most impressive effort this season was rallying the Strake Jesuit 4x400 relay to the Texas 6A state title with a blistering, 44.75-second anchor leg that sent the crowd into a frenzy."

Boling has maintained a 4.23 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at the University of Georgia 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.

Boling joins recent Gatorade Texas Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Tre'Bien Gilbert (2017-18, Judson High School), Sam Worley (2016-17, Canyon High School), Adrian Piperi (2015-16, The Woodlands High School), Norman Grimes (2014-15, Canyon High School) and Kendall Sheffield (2013-14, Thurgood Marshall High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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