

**CABELL MIDLAND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA 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 **Gavin Beverage of Cabell Midland High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade West Virginia Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year**. Beverage is the second Gatorade West Virginia Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Cabell Midland 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 Beverage as West Virginia'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, Beverage 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, 309-pound senior won the shot put at the Class AAA state meet this past season, leading the Knights to a third-place finish as a team. Beverage launched the shot a personal-best 65 feet, 10.5 inches to break a 35-year-old state record held by future Olympian Randy Barnes. The throw ranked No. 7 in the nation among prep competitors in 2019 at the time of his selection. He earned All-American honors by finishing fifth in the shot at this month's New Balance Nationals Outdoor.

A member of the Cabell Midland Marching Band, Beverage has volunteered locally as a youth track official. He has also donated his time to multiple community service initiatives on behalf of his temple youth group. "Gavin had an exceptional year and he was definitely the featured male athlete at every meet he attended," said Eric Cooper, head coach of Hurricane High. "At our home meet at Hurricane, he threw it [beyond the boundary] of our shot put pit."

Beverage has maintained a weighted 4.54 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of California, Riverside 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.

Beverage joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Luke Nichols (2017-18, Nitro High School), Freddy Canary (2016-17, South Harrison High School), Tristan Slater (2015-16, Capital High School) and Christian Buckley (2014-15 & 2013-14, Poca High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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