

**BLAINE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MINNESOTA GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 25, 2020) — In its 35<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Madison Schmidt of Blaine High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Minnesota Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Schmidt is the second Gatorade Minnesota Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Blaine 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 field, distinguishes Schmidt as Minnesota's best high school girls track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year award to be announced in June, Schmidt joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, 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 state's returning Gatorade Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year, the 5-foot-11 senior concluded her prep track career with the state record in the high jump with a clearance of 6 feet. Schmidt is a two-time state champion in the high jump as well as a two-time All-Conference selection in the 800-meter run. A captain of her school's track, volleyball and basketball teams, Schmidt's best leap during the spring of 2019 ranked as the nation's No. 5 mark in the nation.

A member of the Business Professionals of America, Schmidt earned first place in the state association's Fundamentals of Web Design contest. She has volunteered locally at a firearms safety camp and has donated her time with multiple community service initiatives through her church youth group. "Madison is the type of student-athlete that comes to mind when you think 'Coach's dream,'" said Ann Stalboerger, head coach of Blaine High. "She is truly a student first and wants to do things correctly. She works hard to perfect small details that can connect to a larger strategy."

Schmidt has maintained a weighted 4.27 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of Notre Dame.

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. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Two-time winner Schmidt joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Emily Kompelien (2017-18, Edina High School), Anna Keefer (2016-17, St. Michael-Albertville High School), Jedah Caldwell (2015-16, Chanhausen High School), Ruby Stauber (2014-15, Wayzata High School), and Shaina Burns (2013-14, Lakeville South High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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).

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