

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

CHICAGO (June 25, 2020) — In its 35th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Marlee Starliper of Northern High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Starliper is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Northern 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 Starliper as Pennsylvania'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, Starliper 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 5-foot-6 senior won the mile at the prestigious Millrose Games this past winter with a state-record time of 4:37.76, which ranked as the nation's No. 1 performance during the 2020 indoor season and represents the No. 5 clocking in U.S. prep history. The state's Gatorade Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year, Starliper won the mile and the 3000 at the 2020 indoor state championships. She posted the fourth-fastest 3000 in high school history (9:07.14) at that event and clocked the sixth-fastest 1500 (4:19.40) of all-time at the Millrose Games.

A devoted member of her church community, Starliper has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and youth running programs. "Marlee has a relentless desire to be the best distance runner she can be," said Northern High School coach Dave Ramsey. "She works extremely hard and she is a great teammate and team leader."

Starliper has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to run on scholarship at North Carolina State University.

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.

Starliper joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Skylar Ciccolini (2018-19, Mifflin County High School), Payden Montana (2017-18, Berwick Area Senior High School), Madison Wilttrout (2016-17 & 2014-15, Connellsville Area Senior High School), Chanel Brissett (2015-16, Cheltenham High School), and Brianna Schwartz (2013-14, Shaler Area 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, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.

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