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**MERRIMACK VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NEW HAMPSHIRE GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 22, 2017) — In its 32<sup>nd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Kristie Schoffield of Merrimack Valley High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Schoffield is the first Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Merrimack Valley 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 Schoffield as New Hampshire'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, Schoffield 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-7 senior won the 800-meter run at the New England Outdoor Championships this past season with a time of 2:06.90, which ranked as the nation's No. 4 performance among prep competitors in 2017 at the time of her selection. Schoffield also won the 800 at the state Meet of Champions in 2:09.30 and finished first in the 400 at the Division II championships in 57.91. She took second in the 800 at this month's Brooks PR Invitational.

A member of the National Art Honor Society, Schoffield has volunteered with Locks of Love. "Kristie is an extremely self-motivated individual," said Merrimack Valley coach David Irving. "She has excelled at both track and cross country through a single-minded focus on becoming the best that she can be. She's also been a tremendous leader."

Schoffield has maintained a 3.43 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at Boise State University 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. 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.

Schoffield joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Maegan Doody (2015-16, Oyster River High School), Hannah Parker (2014-15, 2013-14 & 2012-13, Coe-Brown Northwood Academy), Hillary Holmes (2011-12, Exeter High School), Krista Vincent (2010-11, Somersworth High School), Arianna Vailas (2009-10, Central High School), Jocelyn Briggs (2008-09, Winnacunnet High School), Anna Cioffredi (2007-08, Lebanon High School), and Kelsey Huckins (2006-07, Keene High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Kristie will be able to select a national or local youth sports organization to receive a grant as part of the Gatorade Play It Forward program. Every Gatorade Player of the Year state winner receives a \$1,000 grant to donate and will have the opportunity to enter for an additional \$10,000 spotlight grant by writing a brief essay explaining why their selected organization deserves additional support. 12 spotlight grants - one for each sport - will be announced throughout the year.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. For more on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of past winners and the announcement of the Gatorade National Player of the Year, visit [www.gatorade.com/poy](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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