

ZACHARY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE LOUISIANA 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 **Sean Burrell of Zachary High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Louisiana Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year**. Burrell is the second Gatorade Louisiana Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Zachary 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 Burrell as Louisiana'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, Burrell 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-10, 170-pound junior swept the 200- and 400-meter dash events at the 5A state meet, helping the Broncos finish second as a team. His season-best clockings of 20.79 seconds in the former and 46.52 in the latter ranked No. 6 and No. 7 in the country, respectively, among prep competitors in 2019. Burrell also finished second in the 110 hurdles at states, crossing the line in a wind-aided 14.32. The Louisiana All-State Male Track MVP and a two-time Advocate Star of Stars Track Athlete of the Year, Burrell has won three consecutive 400 dash state titles and owns the composite state record in the event. In all, he's captured six individual state championships and he led the program to its first-ever state crown as a sophomore.

An avid angler who helps his family raise Amerian Bully show dogs, Burrell is a member of the Serve 225 charitable organization, which assists the needy around Baton Rouge. Burrell's father is a firefighter and Sean often accompanies his dad to help the underprivileged by handing out food and doing chores around the house for local elderly. He has also donated his time as a mentor and coach for young track athletes. "Sean is the hardest worker on our team," said Zachary High head coach Chris Carrier. "When the best athlete on your team works as hard as he does, it makes the whole team better. He also makes us better every time he practices, plus he's capable of scoring in four events for us."

Burrell has maintained a 3.40 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Burrell joins recent Gatorade Louisiana Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Armand 'Mondo' Duplantis (2017-18, 2016-17 & 2014-15, Lafayette High School), Raymond Calais (2015-16, Cecilia High School) and Devin King (2013-14, Jewel M. Sumner High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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