

**BLANCHE ELY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE FLORIDA BOYS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 29, 2020) — In its 35th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Jevon Williams of Blanche Ely High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Florida Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Williams is the first Gatorade Florida Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Blanche Ely 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 Williams as Florida'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 July, Williams 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-10, 160-pound senior won all three outdoor hurdles events he ran in 2020 and set a personal-best in the long jump. In the 2019 outdoor season, Williams broke the tape in the 300-meter hurdles at the state meet with a time of 36.54 seconds, which ranked as the nation's No. 4 prep time in the event last spring. He also won the 110 hurdles at the state championships. The nation's No. 30 recruit in the Class of 2020 as rated by MileSplit, his winning time of 13.87 in the 110 hurdles at the outdoor Flo Golden South Classic in 2019 ranked U.S. No. 28 among preps last spring and set a national age-group (U17) record.

Williams has volunteered on behalf of multiple charities and causes in association with his church community on a weekly basis. He has also donated his time to the Special Olympics and as a youth track coach in addition to participating in the Blanche Ely Athletic Activist Breakfast Club as a charter member. "Williams is a great choice for Gatorade Athlete of the Year in boys track," said Erik Boal, a DyeStat editor. "He's also an excellent athlete who will run track and play football at Clemson."

Williams has maintained a GPA of 3.25 in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at Clemson 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.

Williams joins recent Gatorade Florida Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Jacob Lemmon (2018-19, Fort Myers High School), Anthony Schwartz (2017-18, American Heritage School), Damion Thomas (2016-17, Northeast High School), Damion Thomas (2015-16, Northeast High School), Samson Moore (2014-15, Gaither High School), and Kendal Williams (2013-14, Stanton College Preparatory 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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