

**FREDERICK DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE KENTUCKY BOYS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 29, 2020) — In its 35<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Christian Lewis of Frederick Douglass High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Kentucky Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Lewis is the first Gatorade Kentucky Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Frederick Douglass 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 Lewis as Kentucky'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, Lewis 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-11, 158-pound senior earned All-American honors at the 2019 New Balance Nationals Outdoor with a third-place finish in the long jump. Lewis' personal-best leap of 24 feet, 6 inches ranked as the nation's No. 21 mark among prep competitors during the 2019 outdoor season. Also the 2019 Class AAA Outdoor state meet champion in the long jump, he was Kentucky's top-ranked athlete in the 200-meter dash and long jump during the 2020 indoor season.

Lewis has volunteered locally as a youth track coach, and he has donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through his church. "I have known Christian since he was about eight years old," said Monty McIntyre, head coach of Scott County High. "I would always notice him because he would work out before practice and after practice on his own at that age. I knew then he was going to be special."

Lewis has maintained a weighted 3.37 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of South Carolina.

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.

Lewis joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Langston Jackson (2018-19, Henry Clay High School), Bryan Hudson (2017-18, Scott County High School), Isaiah McCall (2016-17, Bryan Station High School), William Allen (2015-16, Paul Dunbar High School), Jaron Brooks (2014-15, Henry Clay High School), and Landon Young (2013-14, Lafayette 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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