

**BENSON POLYTECHNIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE OREGON 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 Micah Williams of Benson Polytechnic High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Oregon Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Williams is the third Gatorade Oregon Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Benson Polytechnic 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 Oregon'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-9, 180-pound senior ran the 60-meter dash in 6.68 seconds this past winter, which ranked as the nation's No. 1 clocking among prep competitors during the 2020 indoor season. The state's returning Gatorade Boys Track and Field Athlete of the Year, Williams set state records in both the 100 and the 200 during the 2019 outdoor season. He is ranked as the nation's No. 4 recruit in the Class of 2020 by MileSplit.

Williams has volunteered locally on behalf of youth sports programs and Friends of Trees. "Without question, Micah is one of the most impressive young men I have ever had the privilege of working with," said Benson Polytechnic High School coach Leon McKenzie. "His most redeeming qualities are his insatiable work ethic, dedication to the sport and his great belief in himself."

Williams has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at the University of Oregon.

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.

Three-time winner Williams joins recent Gatorade Oregon Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Henry Mong (2016-17, Franklin High School), Harrison Schrage (2015-16, Grant High School), Julian Body (2014-15, Jesuit High School), and Matthew Maton (2013-14, Summit 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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