

**WESTVIEW HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OREGON GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 25, 2020) — In its 35th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Colleen Uzoekwe of Westview High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Oregon Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Uzoekwe is the first Gatorade Oregon Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Westview 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 Uzoekwe as Oregon'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, Uzoekwe 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 senior won three individual events at the Class 6A state meet in 2019, earning Athlete of the Meet honors and the Oregon Sports Awards Track Athlete of the Year award. Uzoekwe won the 100-meter dash, the 200 and the long jump, while earning silver in the high jump. She also took second in the high jump at the USATF National Junior Olympic Championships in the 17-18 age group last summer.

A devoted member of her church community, Uzoekwe has volunteered locally on behalf of the Tender Touch Adult Care homes. "Colleen Uzoekwe is the one you want to coach," said Westview High School coach Rebecca Martin. "She has the physique and the mental edge and she's so coachable. She's there to win and she likes the big stage."

Uzoekwe has maintained a 4.09 GPA in the classroom. She 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.

Uzoekwe joins recent Gatorade Oregon Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Gretchen Hoekstre (2018-19, Seaside High School), Shelby Moran (2017-18, Sherwood High School), Deshae Wise (2016-17, Grants Pass High School), Ella Donaghu (2015-16 & 2013-14, Grant High School), and Maddie Rabing (2014-15, Lakeridge 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, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.

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