

DELTA JUNCTION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ALASKA GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 20, 2019) — In its 34th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Hailey Williams of Delta Junction High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Alaska Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year**. Williams is the first Gatorade Alaska Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Delta Junction 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 Williams as Alaska'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, Williams 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-4 junior won three individual events at the Division 2 state championship meet this past season. Williams broke the tape in the 100-meter dash in 12.45 seconds while capturing the 200 in 25.06 and the 400 in 58.10. She has won seven career state titles. Williams has volunteered locally on behalf of community clean-up initiatives and youth sports programs. "Hailey Williams is an exceptional athlete who is goal-oriented and strives to be the best she can be every time she competes," said Delta Junction coach Tara Owen. "Her dedication, hard work and enthusiasm are an inspiration to all athletes."

Williams has maintained an A average in the classroom. She will begin her 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.

Williams joins recent Gatorade Alaska Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Emma Nelson (2017-18, Chugiak High School), Izabelle Ith (2016-17, Petersburg High School), Tanner Ealum (2015-16, Anchorage Christian High School), and Allie Ostrander (2014-15 & 2013-14, Kenai Central High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Williams also has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of her choosing. She 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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