

## EL DORADO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ARKANSAS GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**CHICAGO** (June 20, 2019) — In its 34<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Breya Clark of El Dorado High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Arkansas Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year**. Clark is the first Gatorade Arkansas Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from El Dorado 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 Clark as Arkansas' 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, Clark 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-5 senior set a meet record in the triple jump with a leap of 39 feet at the Class 5A state championships this past season, leading the Wildcats to a fourth-place finish as a team. Clark's mark ranked No. 73 in the nation among prep competitors at the time of her selection. A six-time individual state champion, she also won the high jump at the state meet while placing second in the long jump and fourth in the 100-meter hurdles.

Clark has volunteered locally at the Murphy USA El Dorado Shootout golf tournament and as part of community-beautification projects. "Breya's marks, times and accomplishments on the track speak for themselves," said John Koonce, head coach of El Dorado High. "She is a kid that sets high goals and then she works very hard to achieve those goals."

Clark has maintained a B average in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock 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.

Clark joins recent Gatorade Arkansas Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Tiana Wilson (2017-18 & 2016-17, Hamburg High School), Jada Baylark (2015-16, Parkview Arts/Science Magnet High School), Lexi Weeks (2014-15, Cabot High School) and Payton Stumbaugh (2013-14, Har-Ber High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Clark 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](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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