

CAESAR RODNEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE DELAWARE 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 **Destiny Bailey-Perkins of Caesar Rodney High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Delaware Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year**. Bailey-Perkins is the first Gatorade Delaware Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Caesar Rodney 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 Bailey-Perkins as Delaware'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, Bailey-Perkins 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-10 senior won three individual events at the state Meet of Champions this past season. Bailey-Perkins broke the tape in the 100-meter dash in 12.27 seconds, while soaring 18 feet, 5.75 inches in the long jump and 37-8 in the triple jump.

Bailey-Perkins has volunteered on behalf of early childhood programs at local elementary schools. "Destiny is willing to sacrifice individual glory for the good of the team, despite her elite status," said Caesar Rodney coach Mike Tucci. "There's no prima donna attitude; she would do any event we asked her to do."

Bailey-Perkins has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at Campbell University (North Carolina) 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.

Bailey-Perkins joins recent Gatorade Delaware Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Lydia Oliver (2017-18, Padua Academy), Daija Lampkin (2016-17 & 2015-16, Middletown High School), Ashley Bailey (2014-15, Middletown High School) and Maiya Dendy (2013-14, Padua Academy) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Bailey-Perkins 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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