

NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MARYLAND 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 **Taylor Wright of Northwest High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Maryland Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year**. Wright is the second Gatorade Maryland Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Northwest 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 Wright as Maryland'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, Wright 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-11 senior won four individual events at the Class 4A state meet this past season, leading the Jaguars to second place as a team. Wright cleared five feet, eight inches in the high jump and soared 41-0.5 to win the triple jump. She captured the 100-meter dash in 12.29 seconds and took the 200 in 25.26. Wright also placed second in the triple jump at the New Balance Nationals Outdoors with a leap of 42-2.75.

A devoted member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Wright has volunteered as a math and science tutor in her school. "Taylor is so down to earth and doesn't get caught up in the hoopla of being the best," said Northwest coach Robert Youngblood. "A lot of athletes who have had her success will hear, but not listen to their coaches. She has an incredible trust, and went on to break our school records in the triple jump, 100 and high jump." Wright has maintained a weighted 4.67 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at the University of Miami beginning 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.

Wright joins recent Gatorade Maryland Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Masai Russell (2017-18, Bullis School), Nyjari McNeil (2016-17, Franklin High School), Maria Coffin (2015-16, Annapolis High School), Jackie McNulty (2014-15, Oakdale High School) and Javonne Antoine (2013-14, Elizabeth Seton High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Wright 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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