

ROCK BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MISSOURI 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 **Tyra Wilson of Rock Bridge High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Missouri Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year**. Wilson is the first Gatorade Missouri Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Rock Bridge 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 Wilson as Missouri'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, Wilson 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-7 sophomore won three individual events at the Class 5 state meet this past season. Wilson captured the 100-meter high hurdles in 13.70 seconds and the 300 intermediate hurdles in 42.35, while soaring 39 feet, 5.5 inches in the triple jump. She also took second in the 200-meter dash. At the Great Southwest Classic, Wilson won the 100 hurdles in 13.52 and the 300 hurdles in 40.79, the latter of which ranked as the nation's No. 2 performance among prep competitors in 2019 at the time of her selection.

A member of the AVID college readiness program, Wilson has volunteered locally on behalf of multiple community service initiatives. "Tyra has excelled far beyond her very successful freshman season and become dominant as a sophomore," said Rock Bridge coach Neal Blackburn. "She's very talented, but she understands that in order to be the very best, hard work is part of the process."

Wilson has maintained a B average in the classroom. She will begin her junior 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.

Wilson joins recent Gatorade Missouri Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Makayla Kelby (2017-18, Lee's Summit West High School), Alicia Burnett (2016-17, Fort Zumwalt South High School), Sophia Rivera (2015-16, Brentwood High School), Hannah Long (2014-15, Eureka High School) and Taylor Werner (2013-14, Ste. Genevieve High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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