

AIRPORT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH CAROLINA 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 **Jayla Jamison of Airport High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade South Carolina Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year**. Jamison is the first Gatorade South Carolina Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Airport 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 Jamison as South Carolina'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, Jamison 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 freshman earned All-American honors in three events with a trio bronze medal finishes at the New Balance Nationals Outdoor earlier this month. Jamison set a state record in the 200-meter dash with her time of 23.19 seconds. Her leap of 19 feet, 11.75 inches in the long jump ranked No. 10 in the nation among prep competitors at the time of her selection, while her 11.56 clocking in the 100-meter dash ranked No. 13 in the nation. Already an eight-time state champion, Jamison won the 100, 200, 400 and long jump at the 2019 Class AAAA state meet. She is a three-time South Carolina Coaches Association for Women Sports AAAA Female Athlete of the Year.

Jamison has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics. "Jayla is a phenomenal athlete in that she has a vision for [for how to attack] each event that she does," said John Hostetler, head coach of Aiken High. "She has been winning and competing at the South Carolina state championships since she was a seventh grader. She sets goals and works to achieve them each and every year."

Jamison has maintained a weighted 3.85 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her sophomore 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.

Jamison joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Imagine Patterson (2017-18, Summerville High School), Carisma Holland (2016-17, Seneca High School), Laurie Barton (2015-16 & 2014-15, D.W. Daniel High School) and Raven Saunders (2013-14, Burke High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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