

MILLS E. GODWIN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE VIRGINIA 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 **Britton Wilson of Mills E. Godwin High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Virginia Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year**. Wilson is the first Gatorade Virginia Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Mills E. Godwin 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 Virginia'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-5 senior was the national champion in the 400-meter intermediate hurdles at the New Balance National Outdoor this past season. Wilson's winning time of 56.77 seconds ranked No. 1 in the nation among prep competitors at the time of her selection and is No. 7 in U.S. girls prep history. Wilson also set a state record in the 400-meter run with a time of 52.06 seconds, which ranked No. 4 in the nation. A 10-time state champion, she is the Richmond Times Dispatch All-Metro Runner of the Year.

Wilson is a member of multiple choral groups at Godwin and has served as a student director. She has volunteered locally at the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. "Britton's work speaks for her," said Stan Davis, head coach of Hermitage High. "She works hard, she brings it every day for practice and does everything asked of her. Her work ethic has led her to be the best she can be and the top runner in the state."

Wilson 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 Tennessee 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.

Wilson joins recent Gatorade Virginia Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Titiana Marsh (2017-18 & 2014-15, Thomas Dale High School), Rachel McArthur (2016-17, Patriot High School), Brandee' Johnson (2015-16, Nansemond River High School) and Chantel Ray (2013-14, Hampton 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.