

**DELTA JUNCTION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ALASKA GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 25, 2020) — In its 35th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Hailey Williams of Delta Junction High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Alaska Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Williams is the first Gatorade Alaska Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Delta Junction 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 field, distinguishes Williams as Alaska'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, Williams joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, 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, who captured seven individual state championships in her career, swept the 100-, 200- and 400-meter dashes in Division 2 each of the past two seasons. The state's returning Gatorade Girls Track and Field Athlete of the Year, Williams posted the state's fastest times in any division in each of the three sprints during the 2019 outdoor season. She had qualified for the since-cancelled 2020 New Balance Nationals Outdoor in both the 100 and 200.

Williams has volunteered locally on behalf of youth sports programs and the 4-H Proud Equestrians Program, an equine therapy program for individuals with physical challenges. "Hailey has quickly risen to be the fastest girl in the state," said Delta Junction coach Tara Owen. "She practices hard every day, with extra effort, and she never quits. She's a dedicated student-athlete who will be an asset to any future team."

Williams 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 Duke University.

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. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Two-time winner Williams joins recent Gatorade Alaska Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Emma Nelson (2017-18, Chugiak High School), Izabelle Ith (2016-17, Petersburg High School), Tanner Ealum (2015-16, Anchorage Christian High School), and Allie Ostrander (2014-15 & 2013-14, Kenai Central High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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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