

**PEA RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE ARKANSAS GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 25, 2020) — In its 35<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Cassidy Mooneyhan of Pea Ridge High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Arkansas Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Mooneyhan is the first Gatorade Arkansas Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Pea Ridge 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 Mooneyhan as Arkansas'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, Mooneyhan 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-3 senior won the pole vault and the 60-meter dash at the Class 4A Indoor state meet, leading the Blackhawks to a first-place finish as a team. She also took second in the 200-meter dash. Mooneyhan's top vault of 12 feet, 11.75 inches ranked as the nation's No. 17 mark among prep competitors during the 2020 indoor season. The 2019 All-Northwest Arkansas Democrat Gazette Athlete of the Year, Mooneyhan set a Class 4A outdoor state meet record in 2019 with her winning clearance of 12-7. She concluded her prep track career with seven state championships.

The president of the Pea Ridge High student council, Mooneyhan was the emcee for her school's annual Veterans Day Assembly. She has volunteered locally as a school ambassador and as a youth track and volleyball coach. "I have coached Cassidy for the last six years and she never ceases to amaze me," said Heather Wade, head coach of Pea Ridge High. "She is very passionate about her training and works hard to improve her skill. She is very determined and has a great work ethic."

The Salutatorian of the Class of 2020, Mooneyhan has maintained a weighted 4.19 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of South Dakota.

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.

Mooneyhan joins recent Gatorade Arkansas Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Brea Clark (2018-19, El Dorado High School), Tiana Wilson (2017-18 & 2016-17, Hamburg High School), Jada Baylark (2015-16, Parkview Arts and Science Magnet High School), Lexi Weeks (2014-15, Cabot High School), and Payton Stumbaugh (2013-14, Har-Ber 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](http://www.Gatorade.com/POY), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](http://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](http://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).

###