

**MIAMI SOUTHRIDGE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE FLORIDA 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 Alyssa Jones of Miami Southridge Senior High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Florida Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Jones is the third Gatorade Florida Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Miami Southridge Senior 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 Jones as Florida'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, Jones 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.).

In an abbreviated 2020 outdoor campaign, the 5-foot-9 sophomore set personal records in four events, including the 200-meter dash, the long jump, the high jump and the 400. Her high jump clearance of 6-feet-0.75-inches at the Spartan Invitational matched her outdoor PR from 2019, which ranked as the nation's No. 2 high jump among prep competitors last year. At the 2019 outdoor FHSAA State Finals, Jones won the high jump and took third in the long jump. She capped the 2019 season by earning fifth place in the high jump at the New Balance Nationals Outdoor, clearing the same height as the national bronze medalist, but requiring more attempts. Also at NBNO, she anchored the national champion sprint medley relay quartet, which broke the tape in 1:43.58—the nation's No. 1 prep time in 2019.

The No. 7 recruit in the Class of 2022 as rated by MileSplit, Jones has volunteered as part of a literacy-outreach program for preschool children and has donated her time on behalf of multiple community service initiatives through the National Honor Society. "Alyssa is one of the most closely watched collegiate prospects in the Class of 2022, and for good reason," said Erik Boal, a DyeStat editor. "She's an elite jumper and is already highly capable in the 200 meters as well. Her future looks extremely bright."

Jones has maintained a weighted GPA of 4.50 in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade award's broad criteria. 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. 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.

Jones joins recent Gatorade Florida Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Jan'Taijah Ford (2018-19, Northeast High School), Caitlin Collier (2017-18, The Bolles School), Symone Mason (2016-17, Miami Southridge Senior High School), Ka'Tia Seymour (2015-16, Palatka High School), Nicole Greene (2014-15, Ponte Vedra High School), and Kaylin Whitney (2013-14, East Ridge 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.