

**OAK PARK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MICHIGAN 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 Aasia Laurencin of Oak Park High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Michigan Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Laurencin is the third Gatorade Michigan Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Oak Park 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 Laurencin as Michigan'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, Laurencin 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-11 senior won her third consecutive indoor state championship this past winter with a time of 8.40 seconds in the 60-meter hurdles, which ranked as the nation's No. 3 prep performance in 2020 indoors. Laurencin also ran a leg on the second-place 4x200 relay. In the 2019 outdoor season, she took second at the Div. 1 state meet in the 100 hurdles, before capturing silver in the sprint medley relay and bronze in the 100 hurdles at the New Balance Nationals Outdoor.

President of her school's chapter of the National Honor Society, Laurencin has volunteered locally on behalf of youth track programs. "Aasia has been a joy to coach, and the intangibles she possesses—outside of her great athletic ability—set her apart from other competitors," said Oak Park coach Brandon Jiles. "She has been a tireless leader, not only for our track program, but for the community as a whole."

Laurencin 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 the University of Texas.

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.

Laurencin joins recent Gatorade Michigan Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Ericka VanderLende (2018-19, Rockford High School), Grace Stark (2017-18, Lakeland High School), Anne Forsyth (2016-17, Pioneer High School), Brianna Holloway (2015-16, Oak Park High School), Annie Fuller (2014-15, Manistee High School), and Anna Jefferson (2013-14, Oak Park 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).

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