

**SANDIA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NEW MEXICO 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 Adriana Tatum of Sandia High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade New Mexico Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Tatum is the third Gatorade New Mexico Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Sandia 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 Tatum as New Mexico'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, Tatum 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-8 junior won the 100-meter dash at the Los Lunas Invitational in her only outdoor meet of 2020, continuing the momentum of an indoor season when she clocked a personal-best time of 7.60 seconds in the 60-meter dash at the Great Southwest Classic Invitational. That ranked as the nation's No. 49 time among indoor prep competitors in 2020. At the 2019 5A state meet, she swept the outdoor 100- and 200-meter dash events while also running legs for the winning 4x100 and 4x200 relay quartets to help the Matadors place second as a team. Her personal-best 100 dash clocking of 11.58 seconds, which earned her fourth at the Great Southwest Classic Elite Finals, ranked No. 22 nationally among 2019 prep competitors in the event. Running the final leg for the 4x100 and 4x200 foursomes a year ago, Tatum helped both squads set state records. The No. 44 recruit in the Class of 2021 as rated by MileSplit, she is a seven-time state champion across multiple track events.

A multi-sport athlete who helped Sandia to the 5A volleyball state final in 2018, Tatum helps organize, officiate and manage clean-up efforts at middle school school meets and has served as a volunteer youth coach. A devotee to the art of ceramics, she has also donated her time as a peer tutor and has assisted in charitable donation drives for the Special Olympics, the National Bail Out fund and anti-racism social activism. "In only two seasons, Adriana has established herself as one of the greatest sprinters in New Mexico's history," said Jaren Brooks, editor of New Mexico Milesplit. "She claimed the 100- and 200-meter individual state titles in addition to her role in two 5A relay state championships in 2019. She also holds the state record for the girls 100. In her sophomore year, Tatum went undefeated through the indoor state championships, capping it off by winning the 100 and 200 state titles."

Tatum has maintained a weighted 4.2 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her senior 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.

Two-time winner Tatum joins recent Gatorade New Mexico Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Haley Rizek (2017-18 & 2016-17, St. Pius X Catholic High School), Jennifer Ramirez (2015-16, Onate High School), Natasha Bernal (2014-15, La Cueva High School), and Lauren Martinez (2013-14, Eldorado 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](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](https://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).

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