

**BEAVERCREEK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE OHIO 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 Taylor Ewert of Beaver Creek High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Ohio Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Ewert is the first Gatorade Ohio Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Beaver Creek 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 Ewert as Ohio'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, Ewert 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-10 senior won the 1600-meter run with a time of 4:52.02 and the 3200-meter run in 10:34.79 at the 2020 Division 1 indoor state meet. The Gatorade Ohio Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year, Ewert won the two-mile event at the University of Kentucky High School Invitational in March with a time of 10:18.94, which ranked as the nation's No. 3 performance among prep indoor competitors this past winter. She clocked U.S. Top 10 prep times in three indoor events in 2020 and U.S. Top 20 in three outdoor events in 2019. The state champion in the 3200 last spring, she also won the 2000-meter steeplechase at the 2019 New Balance Nationals Outdoor, while placing second in the mile and the 4x800 relay. Ewert's personal-best time in the steeplechase ranks No. 7 in prep history, and she's also ranked in the all-time Top 35 for the indoor two-mile and the all-time Top 50 in the outdoor mile among high school girls. She holds seven national high school records in race-walking as well as seven American U20 records in that sport.

Also a talented artist, Ewert has been an altar server at Wright Patterson Air Force Base Chapel for six years, and she's supported the homeless through AFB Chapel Youth Group. She has also served as an inspirational speaker for summer program athletes at West Liberty-Salem High School in addition to volunteering as a meet official and instructor for middle school athletes with her track club as well as donating her time at the Beaver Creek XC Camp for elementary athletes, teaching a mini-class on race walking. "Taylor is one of a kind and an absolute joy to coach," said Beaver Creek High School distance coach Howard Russ. "The quality that really makes her different from other athletes is her attention to details. She's the most driven athlete that I've ever coached."

Ewert has maintained a weighted 3.49 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to run on scholarship at the University of Arkansas.

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.

Ewert joins recent Gatorade Ohio Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Olivia Howell (2018-19, Solon High School), Abby Steiner (2017-18 & 2015-16, Dublin Coffman High School), Molly Leppelmeier (2016-17, McComb High School), Karrington Winters (2014-15, New Albany High School), and Allyson Simmons (2013-14, Fairless 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).