

**AIRPORT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH CAROLINA 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 Jayla Jamison of Airport High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade South Carolina Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Jamison is the first Gatorade South Carolina Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Airport 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 Jamison as South Carolina'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, Jamison 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 state's returning Gatorade Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year, the 5-foot-7 sophomore collected a trio of All-American recognitions with third-place finishes in the 100-meter dash, the 200-meter dash and the long jump at the 2019 New Balance Nationals Outdoor. At NBNO, Jamison set a state record in the 200 with her time of 23.19 seconds, while her marks in the 100 (11.56 seconds) and long jump (19 feet, 11.75 inches) both ranked in the Top 20 nationally among prep competitors in 2019. An eight-time state champion, she has been named the South Carolina Coaches Association for Women Sports 4A Female Athlete of the Year three times.

Jamison has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics. "Jayla is unlike any student-athlete I have known," said Travis Barnes, head coach at Airport High School. "Her athletic ability can't be overstated. She has been blessed with physical talents on an elite level. Jayla is also a highly competitive individual, which gives her a tremendous work ethic. When you combine her athleticism with her drive to be the best, you get something really special."

Jamison has maintained a weighted 3.63 GPA in the classroom. 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.

Two-time winner Jamison joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Imagine Patterson (2017-18, Summerville High School), Carisma Holland (2016-17, Seneca High School), Laurie Barton (2015-16 & 2014-15, D.W. Daniel High School), and Raven Saunders (2013-14, Burke 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.

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