

**SCIENCE HILL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE TENNESSEE 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 Jenna Hutchins of Science Hill High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Tennessee Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Hutchins is the first Gatorade Tennessee Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Science Hill 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 Hutchins as Tennessee'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, Hutchins 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 and also the state's 2019-20 Gatorade Cross Country Runner of the Year, the 5-foot-3 sophomore set four state indoor records this winter in the 1,500-meter run, the 1,600-meter run, the mile and the 3,200. Hutchins ranked in the Top 10 nationally among prep competitors in all four of those events as well as the 2-mile run during the 2020 indoor season. The owner of 13 school records as well as the state record in the outdoor mile, she is ranked as the No. 9 recruit in the Class of 2022 by MileSplit.com.

An accomplished violinist, Hutchins has volunteered locally at the Johnson City Public Library and as a youth running coach. "Her times [this winter] were definitely impressive, and seeing her indoor results really back up what I have always thought about Jenna from watching her," said Sean O'Neil, head coach of Knoxville Catholic High School. "She just flat knows how to compete. The higher the level of competition, the better Jenna runs. No moment seems to be too big for her."

Hutchins has maintained a 4.0 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 Hutchins joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Rebecca Story (2017-18 & 2015-16, Christian Academy of Knoxville), Kethlin Campbell (2016-17, Shelbyville Central High School), Tamia Crockett (2014-15, Hardin Valley Academy), and Brittany Kelly (2013-14 & 2012-13, Northeast 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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