

**WOODS CROSS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE UTAH 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 Carlee Hansen of Woods Cross High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Utah Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Hansen is the first Gatorade Utah Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Woods Cross 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 Hansen as Utah'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, Hansen 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-2 junior earned New Balance All-American honors in the 1,600-meter run during the 2020 indoor season. Hansen's personal-best time of 4:54.29 in the event ranked as the nation's No. 11 clocking among prep competitors. Also during the abbreviated spring season, Hansen finished second in the mile at June's Desert Dream-Last Hurrah Invitational with a time of 4:49.05, which ranked as the nation's No. 2 time among prep competitors at the time of her selection. She also finished third in the outdoor mile at the 2019 Brooks PR.

A member of HOSA, an association of future health professionals, Hansen has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives through her church youth group. "Carlee is a fierce competitor who maintains very high expectations for herself," said Zach Hansen, head coach of Woods Cross High School. "She is always willing to attack challenges head-on, and never succumbs to pressure."

Hansen has maintained a 4.00 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her senior year of high school in the 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.

Hansen joins recent Gatorade Utah Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Meghan Hunter (2018-19 & 2017-18, Provo High School), Whitney Rich (2016-17, Bingham High School), Kaysha Love (2015-16, Herriman High School), Lucy Biles (2014-15, Herriman High School), and Sarah Feeny (2013-14, Ogden 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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