

**MOBILE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE ALABAMA BOYS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 29, 2020) — In its 35<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Josiah Harry of Mobile Christian School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Alabama Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Harry is the first Gatorade Alabama Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Mobile Christian 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 Harry as Alabama's best high school boys track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year award to be announced in July, Harry 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 6-foot-3, 270-pound senior is the state's first thrower to hurl the shot put 64 feet, launching it 64-feet-1.25-inches at the Angelo Harris Invitational in March, which ranked as the No. 1 throw among U.S. prep outdoor competitors in 2020. He has been named a 2020 New Balance Nationals Indoor All-American. A double state champion in the discus and shot at the 2019 outdoor state meet, Harry won the 2020 indoor state title in the shot as well. His personal-best discus toss in 2019 ranked No. 21 nationally among prep competitors outdoors last spring, and he also won a national shot put title at the 2018 New Balance Nationals Outdoor (as well as placing 4th in the discus at NBNO) before missing the 2019 indoor season and half of the outdoor campaign due to a meniscal tear in his knee.

A member of the Mu Alpha Theta mathematics honor society and an eight-year member of the school band as a trumpet and mellophone player, Harry has participated in multiple community service initiatives on behalf of the City Hope Church, most recently collecting and distributing food, supplies and cleaning products to families in need during the global pandemic. He has also donated his time as an instructor for youth track athletes in addition to volunteering at the MCS student snackbar and performing maintenance on the school's track practice facility. "Josiah Harry is Alabama's best ever in the throws," said Erik Boal, a DyeStat editor. "He holds 40 meet or venue records in the shot put and discus, won seven state titles, including one indoors in 2020, and threw for a national championship in the shot put as a sophomore."

Harry has maintained a GPA of 3.98 in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of Alabama.

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.

[EDITING NOTE: MAY NEED TO ADD "TWO-TIME WINNER" HERE IS THE PLAYER HAS WON BEFORE Harry joins recent Gatorade Alabama Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Charles Lewis (2018-19, Sparkman High School), Marion Humphrey (2017-18, Hoover High School), Trey Cunningham (2016-17, Winfield City High School), Trey Cunningham (2015-16, Winfield City High School), Sean Collins (2014-15, McGill-Toolen Catholic High School), and Jaalen Jones (2013-14, Thompson 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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