

**BULLIS SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MARYLAND BOYS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 29, 2020) — In its 35th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Ashton Allen of Bullis School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Maryland Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Allen is the second Gatorade Maryland Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Bullis 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 Allen as Maryland'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, Allen 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-2, 200-pound senior won the 55-meter dash in 6.35 seconds at the Southern Maryland Indoor Classic this past winter, which ranked as the nation's No. 13 performance among prep competitors during the 2020 winter season. The state record-holder in the indoor 400 dash and the outdoor 200, Allen also ran legs on quartets that set national records in the indoor 4x200 and 4x400 relays in 2019. In the spring of 2019, Allen competed on the national championship 4x400 and Swedish relay foursome at the New Balance Nationals Outdoor, while taking second in the Open 200 as well as the 4x200 relay.

A devoted member of his church community, Allen has volunteered locally assisting the homeless. "Ashton is an amazing person who will not be denied in anything he sets his sights on accomplishing," said Bullis coach Joe Lee. "His competitiveness is only matched by his tireless work ethic and desire for greatness."

Allen has maintained an A-minus average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at the University of Southern California.

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.

Allen joins recent Gatorade Maryland Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Andre Turay (2018-19, Bullis School), Kieran McDermott (2017-18, Bel Air High School), Kollin Smith (2016-17, Frederick Douglass High School), Shyheim Wright (2015-16, Northwest High School), Maxwell Willis (2014-15, Bowie High School), and Robert Carter (2013-14, Long Reach 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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