

**HICKORY RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NORTH CAROLINA 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 Cameron Rose of Hickory Ridge High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade North Carolina Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Rose is the first Gatorade North Carolina Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Hickory Ridge 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 Rose as North Carolina'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, Rose 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, 185-pound senior broke state records in the 200-meter dash and the 300-meter dash this past winter, clocking the nation's No. 1 prep performances of the 2020 indoor season in both events. Rose also won the 300 at the VA Showcase with a time of 32.84 seconds, which ranked as the nation's No. 2 indoor clocking in history among prep competitors. He broke the tape in the 200 at January's Clemson High School Invitational in 20.94, the No. 5 high school indoor time of all-time in the event. In 2019, Rose won the 100 and 200 outdoors at the Class 4A state meet, then took third in the 100 and fourth in the 200 at the New Balance Nationals Outdoor. He is ranked as the nation's No. 3 recruit in the Class of 2020 by MileSplit.

A devoted member of his church community, Rose has volunteered locally feeding the homeless and has participated in community clean-up initiatives. "Cameron Rose is the best athlete I have ever coached," said Hickory Ridge coach Jupiter Wilson. "What sets him apart is how hard he works and how humble he is. He always wanted to be coached hard and pushed to be his best. Everyone always had something positive to say about Cameron."

Rose has maintained a weighted 3.76 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at Virginia Tech.

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.

Rose joins recent Gatorade North Carolina Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Kyle Durham (2018-19, Weddington High School), Jamar Davis (2017-18, Orange High School), Connor Lane (2016-17, Cardinal Gibbons High School), Marcus Krah (2015-16, Hillside High School), Keon Howe (2014-15, Mallard Creek High School), and Trentavis Friday (2013-14, Cherryville 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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