

**PUTNAM CITY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OKLAHOMA 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 Bobby Wood of Putnam City High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Oklahoma Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Wood is the first Gatorade Oklahoma Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Putnam City 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 Wood as Oklahoma'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, Wood 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-11, 160-pound senior won both the 110-meter high hurdles and the 300-meter intermediate hurdles at the state Meet of Champions in 2019. Wood also placed fifth in the 400 hurdles at the 2019 USATF Junior Olympic Championships in the 17-18 age group. During this spring's shortened season, he clocked a time of 38.45 seconds in the 300 hurdles, which ranked as the nation's No. 24 performance among prep competitors in 2020.

Also a talented musician, Wood is president of his school's French Club and has volunteered on behalf of multiple community service initiatives with the National Honor Society. "I've been coaching for over 26 years and have never seen a student-athlete do more with effort and technique to maximize his God-given talents," said Putnam City coach Paul Wilson. "All of Bobby's athletic and academic success is due to the same reason: his preparation to compete and achieve at a championship level in all aspects of life."

Wood has maintained a weighted 4.54 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at Stanford University.

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.

Wood joins recent Gatorade Oklahoma Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year J.T. McCloud (2018-19, Union High School), Patrick Larrison (2017-18, Moore High School), Vernon Turner (2016-17 & 2015-16, Yukon High School), Ben Barrett (2014-15, Norman North High School), and Kevin Roddy (2013-14, Duncan 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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