

**MARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE TEXAS 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 Devon Achane of Marshall High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Texas Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Achane is the second Gatorade Texas Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Marshall 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 Achane as Texas'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, Achane 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-9, 170-pound senior led the Buffalos' 4x100-meter relay quartet to a clocking of 40.40 seconds this spring, which ranked as the nation's No. 1 time among prep outdoor competitors in 2020. Achane also ran legs on the 4x200 and 4x400 relays, which were both ranked second nationally, and he turned in individual performances in the 100 (10.53) and 200 (21.57) that were each within the U.S Top 25 this spring. In 2019, he was the fastest 200-meter runner in the country, winning the event at the Class 5A state meet outdoors. Achane also ran on 4x100 and 4x200 relays that were ranked No. 1 in the nation in 2019—foursomes that won both state and New Balance Nationals Outdoor championships.

Also a football standout, Achane has volunteered locally on behalf of an elementary school reading initiative. "As talented an athlete as Devon is, he's an even harder worker," said Marshall High School assistant coach Rodney Alix. "For him to score 116 varsity touchdowns in football and be on two 5A state championship teams and two outdoor national championship relays in track is truly amazing. He'll be in the Texas High School Hall of Fame."

Achane has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in football and track and field on scholarship at Texas A&M 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.

Achane joins recent Gatorade Texas Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Matthew Boling (2018-19, Strake Jesuit College Preparatory), Tre'Bien Gilbert (2017-18, Judson High School), Sam Worley (2016-17, Canyon High School), Adrian Piperi (2015-16, The Woodlands High School), Norman Grimes (2014-15, Canyon High School), and Kendall Sheffield (2013-14, Thurgood Marshall 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.