

**CRESCENTA VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE CALIFORNIA GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (July 2, 2021) — In its 36th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Mia Barnett of Crescenta Valley High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade California Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Barnett is the first Gatorade California Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Crescenta Valley 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 Barnett as California's best high school girls track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Track & Field Player of the Year award to be announced in July, Barnett 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-8 senior clocked the nation's fastest prep times in the 1600- and 3200-meter run this past season, with both clockings ranking among the top 10 performances in U.S. girls prep history. Barnett recorded her national season-best time of 4:37.58 in the 1600 at the Pacific League finals, while she posted her career-best time of 9:52.23 in the 3200 at the Laguna Beach Distance Carnival. She also ran the nation's second-fastest mile, 4:39.41, and had a state-best finish of 2:07.31 in the 800, the seventh-fastest prep time in the U.S. this spring. Undefeated at all distances this year, Barnett won the 1600 at the CIF Southern Section Div. 1 finals in 4:42.89.

Barnett has volunteered locally on behalf of the Dream Center, a homeless shelter that also provided daily food for the needy during the COVID-19 pandemic. "Mia was untouched in competition this year and elevated herself into historic company, even surpassing names like Jordan Hasay and Alex Kosinski and Kim Mortensen," said Crescenta Valley coach Rob Evans. "She's a fierce competitor, unrelenting on the track. She sets her sights high and then does everything it takes to get there."

Barnett has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to run on scholarship at the University of Virginia this fall.

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 works with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Barnett joins recent Gatorade California Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Paige Sommers (2019-20, Westlake High School), Jocelynn Budwig (2018-19, Fowler High School), Tierra Robinson-Jones (2017-18, Bishop O'Dowd High School), and Shae Anderson (2016-17, Norco High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Barnett has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Barnett is also eligible to submit a 30-second video explaining why the organization they chose is deserving of one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants, which will be announced throughout the year. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$2.7 million across 1,117 organizations.

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 playeroftheyear.gatorade.com, on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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