

**THEODORE ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (July 2, 2021) — In its 36<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Fajr Kelly of Theodore Roosevelt High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Kelly is the second Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Theodore Roosevelt 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 Kelly as District of Columbia'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, Kelly 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-5 senior won the 400-meter dash and 800-meter run events at the DCSAA state meet, leading the Rough Riders to a sixth-place finish as a team. Kelly took second in the 200-meter dash, missing out on a third gold medal in a photo finish. At the time of her selection, Kelly's winning 400 dash time of 56.00 seconds ranked No. 1 in the District among prep competitors in the event in 2021, and her season-best 800 time of 2:12.90 also ranked No. 1 in the District.

An editor and writer for her school newspaper, Kelly was the president of her class at Roosevelt High. She has volunteered locally as an elementary school tutor and a youth track coach in addition to donating her time to multiple community service initiatives through her mosque. "Fajr is one of the most amazing athletes I've ever seen," said Marvin Parker, head coach of Dunbar High.

Kelly has maintained a 4.14 weighted GPA in the classroom. She remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Kelly joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Ziyah Holman (2019-20, 2018-19, & 2017-18, Georgetown Day School), and Ingrid Joseph (2016-17, School Without Walls), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Kelly has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Kelly 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com), on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).

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