

**MIAMI SOUTHRIDGE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE FLORIDA 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 **Alyssa Jones of Miami Southridge Senior High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Florida Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Jones is the fourth Gatorade Florida Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Miami Southridge Senior 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 Jones as Florida'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, Jones 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 state's returning Gatorade Girls Track & Field Player of the Year, the 5-foot-11 junior swept the 100-meter dash, the high jump and the long jump at the Class 3A state meet this past season, leading the Spartans to a second-place finish as a team. At the time of her selection, Jones' season-best, wind-legal long jump of 20-feet, 7.25 inches ranked No. 2 nationally among 2021 prep competitors and her personal-best high jump clearance of 5-11.5 ranked No. 3. Her state-title-winning 100 clocking (a personal-best 11.67 seconds) was tied for the nation's No. 25 wind-legal girls prep time in 2021. Her season-best 200 time of 23.96 seconds earned her a silver medal at the 3A championships and was the nation's No. 41 all-conditions clocking this spring by a prep girl. She concluded her prep track career with four individual outdoor track state titles.

At Robert Morgan Educational Center, she attained President's Honor Roll several times and has been recognized for her hard work, efforts and achievements at the Robert Morgan Educational Center Academic Awards Ceremony. A participant in the school's Advanced Placement Capstone Seminar, she has served her community with more than 200 hours of community service. As a member of the National Honor Society, she has participated in reading sessions with the preschool students on the school's campus, she helped initiate an annual Senior Prom event at a local nursing home and she assisted in launching an annual two-day leadership conference for 9th grade students. "Alyssa is a unique student-athlete that you see come through your program once in a lifetime," said Erin McCray, head coach at Miami Southridge. "She is a quiet competitor, a great teammate, an excellent student, highly coachable and she's a coach on the oval with her teammates. She has a pleasant demeanor that's fun to be around. She also knows the direction she wants to take academically and athletically."

Jones has maintained a 3.84 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her senior year of high school 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.

Two-time winner Jones joins recent Gatorade Florida Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Jan'Taijah Ford (2018-19, Northeast High School), Caitlin Collier (2017-18, The Bolles School), and Symone Mason (2016-17, Miami Southridge Senior High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Jones has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Jones 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).

