

**BOISE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE IDAHO 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 **Sammy Smith of Boise High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Idaho Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Smith is the third Gatorade Idaho Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Boise 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 Smith as Idaho'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, Smith 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 2020-21 Gatorade Girls Cross Country Player of the Year, the 5-foot-3 freshman won the 1,600-meter run and 3,200-meter run at the Class 5A state meet, leading the Braves to a first-place finish as a team. Smith also ran the anchor leg on Boise's winning 4x400- and 4x800-meter relay quartets as the Braves set a state record in the latter with a time of 9:09.65. At the time of her selection, Smith's best 1600 clocking of 4:50.60 ranked No. 65 nationally among prep competitors in the event in 2021. Her fastest 3200 time of 10:33.71 ranked No. 69 nationally.

A national champion skier and a nationally ranked soccer prospect, Smith, along with her siblings, founded and serves as a board member of the non-profit GO BIG INC., which provides resources and opportunities for underprivileged youths. She has volunteered locally at homeless shelters and food banks and as a peer math tutor. "I don't know anything about Sammy other than she's crazy-fast," said Greg Harm, head coach of Eagle High. "I'm very impressed with her athletic performance."

Smith has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her sophomore 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.

Smith joins recent Gatorade Idaho Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Lexy Halladay (2019-20, 2018-19, & 2016-17 Mountain View High School), and Maggie Liebich (2017-18, Boise High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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