

**HUNTINGTON NORTH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE INDIANA 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 **Addy Wiley of Huntington North High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Indiana Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Wiley is the first Gatorade Indiana Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Huntington North 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 Wiley as Indiana'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, Wiley 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 junior became the first runner in state history to win the 800- and 1600-meter runs at the same state championship meet, capturing the former in 2:08.62 and breaking the tape in the latter with a time of 4:45.27. Wiley also set a state record this season in the mile, clocking a time of 4:38.14, which ranked as the nation's No. 1 performance among 2021 prep competitors and No. 9 in U.S. girls prep history.

Wiley has served as a freshman mentor and has volunteered locally on behalf of Ronald McDonald House Charities as well as Blessings in a Backpack and youth basketball camps. "What sets Addy apart is how she responds to challenges," said Huntington North coach Matt Ditzler. "Her path has been far from easy, but for every one step back, she takes two steps forward. She is the definition of perseverance at the highest level."

Wiley has maintained a 3.98 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.

Wiley joins recent Gatorade Indiana Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Ramiah Elliott (2019-20 & 2018-19, North Central High School), Semira Killebrew (2017-18, Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School), and Lynna Irby (2016-17, Pike High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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