

**ANDALE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE KANSAS 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 **Katelyn Fairchild of Andale High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Kansas Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Fairchild is the first Gatorade Kansas Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Andale 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 Fairchild as Kansas 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, Fairchild 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-9 senior qualified for the javelin finals at the U.S. Olympic Trials, placing 12th with a meet-best throw of 146 feet, 4 inches. Fairchild won both the javelin and the shot put at the Class 4A state meet this past season, launching the former 170-0 and hurling the shot 42-2.5. She also took second in the discus, leading the Indians to the state championship as a team. Fairchild's personal-best effort in the javelin of 175-4 ranked as the nation's No. 2 performance among 2021 prep competitors and No. 10 in U.S. girls prep history.

Also a basketball and volleyball standout, Fairchild has volunteered locally on behalf of Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) and youth track programs. "Katelyn Fairchild is as accomplished as any female or male athlete that Andale High has ever had, and she's in the conversation as best in Kansas track history," said Andale coach Tyler Ryan. "She has impeccable character and a work ethic that truly separates her from every other athlete that I've encountered."

Fairchild has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at Texas A&M University 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.

Fairchild joins recent Gatorade Kansas Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Dhakiya Blake (2019-20, Leavenworth High School), Kendra Wait (2018-19, Gardner Edgerton High School), Dana Baker (2017-18, Olathe North High School), and Cailie Logue (2016-17, Girard High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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

###