

**SEAHOLM HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MICHIGAN 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 **Audrey DaDamio of Seaholm High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Michigan Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. DaDamio is the first Gatorade Michigan Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Seaholm 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 DaDamio as Michigan'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, DaDamio 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.).

This past season, the 5-foot-3 senior became the first female athlete to win the 800, the 1600 and the 3200-meter events at the Division 1 state meet. DaDamio broke the tape in the 800 with a time of 2:11.95 before clocking victories in the 1600 (4:44.38) and the 3200 (10:22.11). Her personal-best time of 10:02.25 in the 3200 ranked as the nation's No. 5 performance among 2021 prep competitors. DaDamio also set a state record of 16:12.40 in the 5000 along with breaking three state records during the indoor track season.

A religious education teacher at her church, DaDamio has packed and delivered food for needy families and has volunteered locally on behalf of youth track programs. She is also co-founder and vice president of both her school's Chinese Honor Society and the Seaholm Triathlon Club. "Winning three state championships is quite an achievement, and it's even more impressive when you consider these were distance events and were accomplished on a day the temperature approached 90 degrees and the wind was gusting over 20 miles per hour," said Seaholm distance coach Craig McCardell. "Audrey was aggressively challenged in each race, and she withstood each challenge."

DaDamio has maintained a weighted 4.65 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to run on scholarship at Stanford 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.

DaDamio joins recent Gatorade Michigan Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Aasia Laurencin (2019-20, Oak Park High School), Ericka VanderLende (2018-19, Rockford High School), Grace Stark (2017-18, Lakeland High School), and Anne Forsyth (2016-17, Pioneer High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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