

**TRINITY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MISSOURI 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 **Sydney Juszczuk of Trinity Catholic High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Missouri Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Juszczuk is the first Gatorade Missouri Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Trinity Catholic 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 Juszczuk as Missouri'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, Juszczuk 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-3 senior launched the javelin 177 feet, 11 inches this past season, a personal-best effort that ranked as the nation's No. 1 performance among 2021 prep competitors and No. 6 in U.S. girls prep history. The throw qualified her to compete at the U.S. Olympic Trials. Juszczuk won the javelin at the Class 4 state meet with a distance of 151-9.75, leading the Titans to the state championship as a team in the waning days of her high school's existence, as the 62-year-old facility was permanently closed by the St. Louis Archdiocese at the end of the academic year.

Juszczuk set up her own non-profit community service group called Syd's Community Projects as well as donated her time by hosting a clinic for younger javelin throwers. "Sydney is a premier javelin thrower, but she's also an all-around athlete who would excel in anything that she set her mind to," said Trinity Catholic assistant coach B.J. Torbert. "She's served as an incredible teammate and a leader on every team she's been involved with. One of the highlights of my coaching career is the fact that I've had the honor of working with her."

Juszczuk has maintained a 3.61 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at Texas Christian 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.

Juszczuk joins recent Gatorade Missouri Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Courtney Williams (2019-20, Nerinx Hall), Tyra Wilson (2018-19, Rock Bridge High School), Makayla Kelby (2017-18, Lee's Summit West High School), and Alicia Burnett (2016-17, Fort Zumwalt South High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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

###