

**ARLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEBRASKA 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 **Kailynn Gubbels of Arlington High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Nebraska Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Gubbels is the first Gatorade Nebraska Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Arlington 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 Gubbels as Nebraska'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, Gubbels 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 won the 100-meter hurdles and the high jump at the Class B state meet this past season, leading the Eagles to a seventh-place finish as a team. Gubbels set a meet record in the 100 hurdles with her winning time of 14.59 seconds as well as took second in the 300-meter hurdles. At the time of her selection, Gubbels' season-best high jump of 5 feet, 10 inches represented a Class B state record and ranked No. 8 nationally among 2021 prep competitors in the event. Her personal-best 100 hurdles time of 14.52 seconds is also a Class B state record.

Gubbels has volunteered locally as a youth basketball and volleyball coach and has donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through the Arlington High National Honor Society. "Kailynn is a fantastic athlete and competitor," said Rick Nordhues, head coach of Syracuse High. "I watched her jump 5-10 at our track at the conference meet. She is a tremendous competitor."

Gubbels has maintained a 3.85 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.

Gubbels joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Kalynn Meyer (2019-20, 2018-19, & 2017-18, Superior High School), and MacKenzie Brandl (2016-17, Stanton High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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