

**JAMESTOWN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NORTH DAKOTA 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 **Anthonett Nabwe of Jamestown High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade North Dakota Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Nabwe is the first Gatorade North Dakota Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Jamestown 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 Nabwe as North Dakota'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, Nabwe 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 junior won the shot put and discus events at the Class A state meet this past season, leading the Blue Jays to a third-place finish as a team. Nabwe also took second in the 100-meter dash and third in the javelin throw, collecting 34 points as an individual. At the time of her selection, Nabwe's personal-best shot put of 48 feet, 1 inch ranked No. 17 nationally among 2021 prep competitors in her event. Her personal-best discus throw of 143-9 ranked No. 82 nationally.

A native of Liberia, Nabwe came to Jamestown before her freshman year of high school. Also a talented singer, she has performed at various nursing homes in addition to volunteering locally as a youth basketball and volleyball coach. "It takes a special athlete to excel in the throws and on the track," said Darin McKinnon, head coach of West Fargo High. "Annie balances her time on learning the techniques in the throwing events while continuing her training in the sprints. She is the definition of an all-around athlete."

Nabwe has maintained a 3.94 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.

Nabwe joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Shelby Frank (2019-20, 2018-19, & 2017-18, Red River High School), and Karly Ackley (2016-17, Grand Forks Central High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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