

**SOUTHMOORE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OKLAHOMA 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 **Jada Atkinson of Southmoore High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Atkinson is the first Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Southmoore 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 Atkinson as Oklahoma'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, Atkinson 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 senior broke the tape in the 100- and the 200-meter dash at the Class 6A state meet this past season, winning the former in a state-record 11.38 seconds and the latter in 23.76. Atkinson's record clocking in the 100 ranked as the nation's No. 7 all-conditions performance among 2021 prep girls competitors.

Also a talented artist, Atkinson has provided after-school care for elementary school students and has volunteered locally on behalf of Meals on Wheels. "Jada Atkinson is just a great young athlete," said Stefan Seifried, coach at Moore High. "She works hard and has been a great competitor."

Atkinson has maintained a weighted 4.10 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at the University of Oklahoma 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.

Atkinson joins recent Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Daphne Matthews (2019-20, Heritage Hall), Madison Collier (2018-19, Hennessey High School), and Ally Ryan (2017-18 & 2016-17, Jenks High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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