

**HIDDEN VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OREGON 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 **Kaiah Fisher of Hidden Valley High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Oregon Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Fisher is the first Gatorade Oregon Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Hidden Valley 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 Fisher as Oregon'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, Fisher 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 6-foot-1 senior swept the discus and shot put events at the Class 4A state meet, leading the Mustangs to the state championship as a team. Fisher hurled the shot 45 feet, nine inches and launched the discus 166-10, the latter of which broke both the Class 4A record and the state meet record, and ranked as the nation's No. 9 performance among 2021 prep girls competitors.

Also a basketball and soccer standout, Fisher is a member of her school's Student-Athlete Leadership Council and has volunteered locally on behalf of Sparrow Club, which raises money for children with medical needs. She has also donated her time to Sleep in Heavenly Peace, which builds and delivers beds for underprivileged youth. "What sets Kaiah apart from other student-athletes is her work ethic and mental toughness," said Hidden Valley coach Terry Larson. "When she sets a goal, she will work tirelessly until she achieves it. She is well-grounded, of high moral character and excels at everything she does."

Fisher has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom and was valedictorian of her senior class. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field 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.

Fisher joins recent Gatorade Oregon Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Colleen Uzoekwe (2019-20, Westview High School), Gretchen Hoekstre (2018-19, Seaside High School), Shelby Moran (2017-18, Sherwood High School), and Deshae Wise (2016-17, Grants Pass High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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