

**AIRPORT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH CAROLINA 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 **Jayla Jamison of Airport High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade South Carolina Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Jamison is the first Gatorade South Carolina Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Airport 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 Jamison as South Carolina'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, Jamison 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 state's returning Gatorade Girls Track & Field Player of the Year, the 5-foot-7 senior swept the 100-, 200- and 400-meter dash events as well as the long jump at the Class AAAA state meet for a third straight time, leading the Eagles to a third-place finish as a team. At the time of her selection, Jamison's season-best 200 time of 23.65 seconds ranked No. 21 nationally among prep competitors in the event in 2021. She was one of two female athletes in the country to rank in the Top 65 nationally in the 100, 200, 400 and long jump. A 12-time state champion, she is also a four-time South Carolina Coaches Association for Women Sports AAAA Female Athlete of the Year.

Jamison has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics. "I have watched this young lady dominate AAAA track and field for four years," said Coral Johnson, head coach of A.C. Flora High. "She is a special athlete that comes around every 20-plus years. What makes her so special is she works so hard at being the best."

Jamison has maintained a weighted 3.34 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of South Carolina 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.

Two-time winner Jamison joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Imagine Patterson (2017-18, Summerville High School), and Carisma Holland (2016-17, Seneca High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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