

**WOODS CROSS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE UTAH GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (July 2, 2021) — In its 36<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Carlee Hansen of Woods Cross High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Utah Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Hansen is the first Gatorade Utah Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Woods Cross 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 Hansen as Utah'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, Hansen 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 and the 2020-21 Gatorade Girls Cross Country Player of the Year, the 5-foot-2 senior swept the 800-meter, 1,600-meter and 3,200-meter run events at the Class 5A state meet this past season, leading the Wildcats to a second-place finish as a team. At the time of her selection, Hansen's state-winning 1600 time of 4:49.18 set a meet record and ranked No. 46 nationally among prep competitors in the event in 2021. Her season-best 2:10.08 in the 800 ranked No. 49 nationally.

A member of HOSA, a student association of future health professionals, Hansen has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives through her church youth group. "Carlee is a fierce competitor who maintains very high expectations for herself," said Zach Hansen, head coach of Woods Cross High. "She is always willing to attack challenges head-on and never succumbs to pressure."

Hansen has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of North 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 Hansen joins recent Gatorade Utah Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Meghan Hunter (2018-19 & 2017-18, Provo High School), and Whitney Rich (2016-17, Bingham High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Hansen has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Hansen 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com), on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).

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