

**MOUNT MANSFIELD UNION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE VERMONT 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 Diamond of Mount Mansfield Union High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Vermont Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Diamond is the second Gatorade Vermont Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Mount Mansfield Union 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 Diamond as Vermont'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, Diamond 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-6 junior won the 100- and 200-meter dash events at the Division 1 state meet this past season, leading the Cougars to the team title. Diamond also ran the second leg of MMU's winning 4x100-meter relay team and added a silver medal in the 300-meter hurdles event.

Diamond has volunteered locally with the MMU Orientation Workshop for incoming freshmen, and she has donated her time as a youth track and basketball coach. "Jada is a fierce competitor who set the tone for our team," said Bill Eschholz, head coach of Mount Mansfield High. "Even in practice she always gives 100 percent."

Diamond has maintained a 3.63 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.

Diamond joins recent Gatorade Vermont Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Rebecca Crosier (2019-20, Mount Anthony Union High School), Ella Whitman (2018-19, Champlain Valley Union High School), Molly McCreedy (2017-18, U-32 High School), and Sonia John (2016-17, Rice Memorial High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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