

**HOWARD HIGH SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE DELAWARE BOYS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (July 8, 2021) — In its 36th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Zyaire Nuriddin of Howard High School of Technology** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Delaware Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Nuriddin is the third Gatorade Delaware Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Howard High School of Technology.

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 Nuriddin as Delaware's best high school boys track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Track & Field Player of the Year award to be announced in July, Nuriddin 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, 146-pound sophomore swept all three sprints at the state Meet of Champions this past year. Nuriddin broke the tape in the 100-meter dash in 10.79 seconds, won the 200 in 21.83 and took the 400 in 48.05. Named the Male Track and Field Athlete of the Year by state coaches, he also swept the same three events at the Division 2 state meet.

Nuriddin has volunteered locally on behalf of backpack drives that provide food for needy children. "Zyaire has the ability to endure longer distances at higher speeds than what is typical of a sprinter," said Howard coach Elijah Hicks. "His ability to perform these types of workouts is what is setting him apart from other athletes in Delaware. He also has the ability to perform at high levels on limited rest."

Nuriddin has maintained a 3.56 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his junior 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.

Nuriddin joins recent Gatorade Delaware Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Brahmir Vick (2019-20 & 2018-19, Middletown High School), Connor Nisbet (2017-18, Wilmington Friends School), and Edwin Rosembert (2016-17, Howard High School of Technology), among the state's list of former award winners.

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

###