

**OUACHITA PARISH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE LOUISIANA 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 **Kashie Crockett of Ouachita Parish High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Louisiana Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Crockett is the first Gatorade Louisiana Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Ouachita Parish 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 Crockett as Louisiana'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, Crockett 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, 150-pound senior swept the 110- and 300-meter hurdle events at the Class 5A state meet, clocking personal-best times in both and leading the Lions to a third-place finish as a team. Crockett's time of 13.76 seconds in the 110 set a class record and ranked as the nation's No. 10 clocking among 2021 prep competitors. According to MileSplit.com, it was the No. 4 wind-legal performance in state high school history. His 36.42 in the 300 ranked No. 3 nationally in 2021 and set an all-state record. Also the winner of the 110 hurdles at June's Track Houston 2021 Championship, he chipped in further at the state meet by anchoring the Chiefs 4x400 relay quartet to a win in addition to handling the second leg of the squad's 4x200 foursome, which finished third.

Crockett has volunteered locally at Rowland Baptist Church vacation bible school for the last six summers. He has also donated his time to Rolling Hills Ministry Thrift Shop, a Race for a Cure and the Louisiana State Games, in addition to being involved with the Chick-Fil-A Leadership Academy, Junior Civitians, his school's Spanish Club and Duke University's national academic talent search program known as Duke TIP. "Kashie has been an exemplary student-athlete," said Morgan Smith, head coach at Ouachita Parish High. "Not only is he a leader for his peers, but also plays a coach-like role for our younger athletes. He is selfless when it comes to events we plug him into and he's willing to do whatever is necessary for the team to succeed. He has provided the encouragement and motivation to bring our team to new levels of achievement."

Crockett has maintained a 3.86 average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette 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.

Crockett joins recent Gatorade Louisiana Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Sean Burrell (2019-20 & 2018-19, Zachary High School), and Armand 'Mondo' Duplantis (2017-18 & 2016-17, Lafayette High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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