

**DAVIE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NORTH CAROLINA 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 **Spencer Williams of Davie County High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade North Carolina Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Williams is the first Gatorade North Carolina Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Davie County 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 Williams as North Carolina'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, Williams 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 6-foot-5, 295-pound junior hurled the shot put 60 feet, 2 inches to win the Class 4A state title this past season. Williams also launched the discus 169-8 to take second. He capped his season by finishing seventh in the discus and ninth in the shot put at the National Scholastic Athletics Foundation Outdoor Nationals. His personal best efforts of 61-11 in the shot put and 186-4 in the discus—both North Carolina junior class records—each ranked among the nation's Top 25 prep performances in 2021.

A devoted member of his church youth group, Williams has volunteered locally on behalf of food-donation drives and a school for at-risk and special needs students. "What sets Spencer apart is his burning desire to improve," said Davie County coach Rob Raisbeck. "During the height of the pandemic, our student-athletes were not permitted to use our athletic facilities, so he had to practice at home. He just strung up a net between trees in his backyard and threw the discus into the netting. His perseverance paid off this spring with two junior class state records."

Williams has maintained a weighted 4.38 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his 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.

Williams joins recent Gatorade North Carolina Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Cameron Rose (2019-20, Hickory Ridge High School), Kyle Durham (2018-19, Weddington High School), Jamar Davis (2017-18, Orange High School), and Connor Lane (2016-17, Cardinal Gibbons High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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