

**CANE BAY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH 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 **Jaylen Boudreaux of Cane Bay High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade South Carolina Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Boudreaux is the first Gatorade South Carolina Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Cane Bay 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 Boudreaux as South 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, Boudreaux 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-10, 155-pound junior swept the 110- and 400-meter hurdles events while also running the anchor leg of the winning 4x400-meter relay at the Class AAAAA state meet this past season, leading the Cobras to a sixth-place finish as a team. At the time of his selection, Boudreaux's state-meet-record clocking of 52.16 seconds in the 400 hurdles ranked No. 1 nationally among 2021 prep competitors. A first-year hurdler, his personal-best 14.06 in the 110 hurdles ranked No. 44 nationally.

Boudreaux has volunteered locally with the school's Cane Bay High Excel Club, which works on community outreach through the Exchange Club of Berkeley County. He has also donated his time as a youth track coach and mentor. "Jaylen is the best young hurdler that I have ever seen in South Carolina," said Kevin Shiver, head coach of Wando High. "He is truly an elite athlete."

Boudreaux has maintained a weighted 3.11 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.

Boudreaux joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Tyler Graves (2019-20 & 2018-19, Lower Richland High School), Keyshawn King (2017-18, Liberty High School), and DJ Ledell (2016-17, River Bluff High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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