

**MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE TENNESSEE 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 **Miles Ally of Martin Luther King Jr. High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Tennessee Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Ally is the first Gatorade Tennessee Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Martin Luther King Jr. 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 Ally as Tennessee'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, Ally 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-1, 135-pound senior won the mile run at June's Hoka Festival of Miles in St. Louis. At the time of his selection, Ally's winning mark of 4:06.42 ranked No. 6 nationally among 2021 prep competitors in the event. He also won the 1,600-meter run at the Division 1 Large State Meet and missed a second gold in the 800 by 0.03 seconds, leading the Royals to a 10th-place finish as a team. He concluded his prep career ranked in this season's Top 50 nationally in both the 1600 and 3200 and he was in the Top 70 in the 800.

Ally has volunteered locally at Nashville Youth Athletics and he has donated his time as a youth track coach. "His range is extraordinary," said Peter Mueller, head coach of Ravenwood High. "To be competitive in the 400 and national-caliber in the 800, 1600, 3200 and 5K is very impressive."

Ally has maintained a weighted 3.30 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at North Carolina State University 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.

Ally joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Brevin Sims (2019-20, Chattanooga School for the Arts & Sciences), Emmanuel Bynum (2018-19, Whitehaven High School), and Josh Sobota (2017-18 & 2016-17, Bearden High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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