

**CAROLINA FOREST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH CAROLINA BOYS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 29, 2022) — In its 37th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **T'Mars McCallum, Jr.** of **Carolina Forest High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade South Carolina Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. McCallum, Jr. is the first Gatorade South Carolina Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Carolina Forest 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 McCallum, Jr. 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, McCallum, Jr. 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 (2014-15 & 2013-14, Grand Blanc High School, Mich.) and Candace Hill (2014-15, Rockdale County High School, Ga.).

The 5-foot-8, 150-pound senior won four gold medals and set three state records at the Class 5A state meet this past season, leading the Panthers to a second-place finish as a team. McCallum set state records in the 100- and 200-meter dashes and as the anchor on the winning 4x100-meter relay team. He also won the long jump. McCallum's 100 time of 10.13 seconds ranked No. 1 nationally among prep competitors in 2022 at the time of his selection and No. 8 on the all-time list. His time of 20.71 in the 200 ranked No. 8 in the country this spring. He won the national championship in the 100 at New Balance Nationals Outdoor and he earned All-American status by finishing second in the 200 and sixth in the long jump.

McCallum has volunteered locally with the 100 Black Men of America mentoring program, and he has donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through his church's youth department. "TJ was and is amazing," said Jacon Scheuer, head coach of St. James High School. "His athleticism is superior to everyone else on the track."

McCallum has maintained a weighted 4.23 GPA in the classroom. He remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

McCallum, Jr. joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Jaylen Boudreaux (2020-21, Cane Bay High School), Tyler Graves (2019-20 & 2018-19, Lower Richland High School), and Keyshawn King (2017-18, Liberty High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Gatorade has a long-standing history of serving athlete communities and understands how sports instill valuable lifelong skills on and off the field. Through Gatorade's "Play it Forward" platform, McCallum, Jr. has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national organization of their choosing that helps young athletes realize the benefits of playing sports. McCallum, Jr. is also eligible to submit a short 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 \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 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 or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.