

**MEMPHIS CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE TENNESSEE 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 **Jordan Ware** of **Memphis Central High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Tennessee Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Ware is the first Gatorade Tennessee Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Memphis Central 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 Ware 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, Ware 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 6-foot-3, 180-pound junior won a national championship in the 200-meter dash at the Adidas Outdoor Nationals this past season. Ware also earned All-American honors at the Adidas Nationals in the 100-meter dash, finishing third with a wind-aided personal-best time of 10.34 seconds. Ware swept the 100 and 200-meter dashes and anchored the 4x100- and 4x200-meter relays at the Class AAA state meet, helping the Warriors set state records in both events and leading Memphis Central High School to the team title. His season's-best time in the 200 of 20.90 seconds at the Music City Track Carnival ranked No. 19 nationally among prep competitors in 2022 at the time of his selection, and his wind-legal time of 10.46 in the 100 qualifying round at Adidas Nationals ranked No. 39 in the country this spring.

Ware has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives through his church youth group. "Jordan's work ethic is the type that every coach hopes for in each and every one of their athletes," said Rashad Haynes, head coach of Memphis Central High School. "Jordan is (only) at the surface of his talent, and he is improving to become a more technically efficient athlete."

Ware has maintained an A-minus average 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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Ware joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Miles Ally (2020-21, Martin Luther King Jr. High School), Brevin Sims (2019-20, Chattanooga School for the Arts & Sciences), Emmanuel Bynum (2018-19, Whitehaven High School), and Josh Sobota (2017-18, Bearden 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, Ware 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. Ware 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.