

**ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 30, 2022) — In its 37th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Meredith Gotzman** of **St. John's College High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Gotzman is the first Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from St. John's College 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 Gotzman as District of Columbia's best high school girls track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Track & Field Player of the Year award to be announced in July, Gotzman 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 2019-20 state Gatorade Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year, the 5-foot-8 junior set meet records in both the 1,600- and 3,200-meter runs at the DCSAA state meet this past season, leading the Cadets to the team title. Gotzman won the 1,600 by more than 10 seconds with a time of 5:03.93 and she broke the tape in the 3,200 in 10:55.72, nearly seven seconds ahead of her next-closest competitor. Gotzman earned All-American status with a runner-up finish in the 5,000-meter race at the adidas Outdoor Nationals, and her time of 17:51.63 ranked No. 54 nationally among prep competitors in 2022 at the time of her selection.

Gotzman has volunteered locally as part of food drives for people in need, and she has donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through the Mid-County United Ministries. "Out of my 25 years of coaching, Meredith ranks among the best," said Desmond Dunham, head coach of St. John's College High. "She is congenial, hard-working, committed and an ultimate team player."

Gotzman has maintained a 3.46 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her 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.

Gotzman joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Fajr Kelly (2020-21, Theodore Roosevelt High School), and Ziyah Holman (2019-20, 2018-19, & 2017-18, Georgetown Day 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, Gotzman 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. Gotzman 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.

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