BOISE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE IDAHO 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 **Logan Smith** of **Boise High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Idaho Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Smith is the fourth Gatorade Idaho Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Boise 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 Smith as Idaho'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, Smith 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-7 senior set a state record in the 800-meter run at the Class 5A state meet this past season, leading the Braves to the team title. Smith's 800 time of 2:09.07 shattered the state record by two seconds and, at the time of her selection ranked No. 43 nationally among prep girls competitors in 2022. Smith, whose sister Sammy won the state's Gatorade Girls Track & Field Player of the Year last year, is a three-time All-State soccer player for the Braves. At the state track meet this spring, she also ran the anchor leg on Boise's winning 4x400-meter and 4x800-meter relay quartets, and she took second in the 200-meter dash.

A national champion Nordic skier, Smith, along with her siblings, founded (and remains a board member of) the non-profit GO BIG INC., which provides resources and opportunities for underprivileged youths. She serves as an intern for Voice in Sports, an organization that empowers female athletes through advocacy and mentorship, and she has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives through her school's National Honor Society. "From day one, Logan put herself in a prime position to have success at the highest level," said Aaron Olswanger, head coach of Boise High School. "That is due to her work ethic in the offseason and setting goals that were extremely high. Saying Logan had an amazing senior track season would be an understatement."

A National Merit Scholar, Smith has maintained a weighted 4.38 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on scholarship at Stanford University this fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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.

Smith joins recent Gatorade Idaho Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Sammy Smith (2020-21, Boise High School), Lexy Halladay (2019-20 & 2018-19, Mountain View High School), and Maggie Liebich (2017-18, Boise 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, Smith 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. Smith 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.