

**HELLGATE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MONTANA 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 **Kensley May** of **Hellgate High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Montana Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. May is the second Gatorade Montana Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Hellgate 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 May as Montana'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, May 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 state's two-time Gatorade Cross Country Player of the Year, the 5-foot-8 senior won the 1,600- and 3,200-meter runs at the Class AA state meet this past season, leading the Knights to a third-place finish as a team. May broke the tape first in her 2-mile heat at the Nike Outdoor Nationals, crossing the line in 10:24.27, which ranked No. 25 nationally among prep girls competitors in 2022 at the time of her selection.

May has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics and she has donated her time as part of multiple community service initiatives through her school's National Honor Society. "Kensley took a big leap this year by realizing that she can dominate a race from the front," said Jeff Dohn, head coach of Hellgate High School. "She used to lay back and go with the pack and then finish hard. And when I say dominate, she decided to control races and crush the competition."

May has maintained a 3.92 in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at Syracuse 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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

May joins recent Gatorade Montana Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Klaire Kovatch (2020-21, Seeley-Swan High School), Angellica Street (2019-20 & 2018-19, Columbia Falls High School), and Camila Noe (2017-18, Bozeman 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, May 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. May 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.