

**SPRING GROVE AREA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 30, 2022) — In its 37<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Laila Campbell** of **Spring Grove Area High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Campbell is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Spring Grove Area 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 Campbell as Pennsylvania'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, Campbell 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 sophomore swept the 100- and 200-meter dash events at the Class AAA state meet for the second consecutive year, breaking the state record in the 100 with a time of 11.55. Campbell also clocked a winning time of 23.56 in the 200. She capped her season by racing to a national championship in the 100 at June's New Balance Nationals Outdoor with a time of 11.56. She also took third in the 200 to become a dual-event All-American.

A member of her school's athletic leadership team, Campbell has assisted with Spring Grove's freshman basketball team. "Laila Campbell has had no rival the past two seasons at the state championship meets," said Jason Smith, coach at Red Lion High School. "She's a determined, fierce competitor, but also very humble and personable, which is rare for someone with her ability."

Campbell has maintained an A average in the classroom. She will begin her junior 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.

Campbell joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Ashlyn Giles (2020-21, Schuylkill Valley High School), Marlee Starliper (2019-20, Northern High School), Skylar Ciccolini (2018-19, Mifflin County High School), and Payden Montana (2017-18, Berwick Area Senior 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, Campbell 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. Campbell 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).