

**MOSES BROWN SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE RHODE ISLAND 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 **Sophia Gorriaran** of **Moses Brown School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Gorriaran is the first Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Moses Brown 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 Gorriaran as Rhode Island'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, Gorriaran 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 returning Gatorade Girls Track & Field Player of the Year, the 5-foot-6 junior broke her own state record in the 800-meter run at the Track Night NYC Trials of Miles in New York in May. At the time of her selection, Gorriaran's mark of 2:00.65 ranked No. 3 nationally among prep competitors in 2022 and was tied for fifth in history among prep girls. The owner of 11 state records (four outdoors, seven indoors), she also won the 200-meter dash and the 800- and 1,500-meter runs at the Class C state meet, leading the Quakers to a team title. Her season-best 400-meter dash time of 54.46 seconds ranked No. 36 in the country in 2022.

Also a top lacrosse player who plays both sports during the spring season, Gorriaran has volunteered locally at an inner-city elementary school and as a youth track coach. "Sophia is a phenomenal athlete and a great kid," said Chris Magill, head coach of St. Raphael Academy. "She is the best middle distance runner Rhode Island has ever had."

Gorriaran has maintained a weighted 3.89 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.

Three-time winner Gorriaran joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Annika Kelly (2018-19, Barrington High School), and Nikki Merrill (2017-18, Portsmouth 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, Gorriaran 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. Gorriaran 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.