

**STEVENS POINT AREA SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WISCONSIN 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 **Roisin Willis** of **Stevens Point Area Senior High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Willis is the second Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Stevens Point Area Senior 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 Willis as Wisconsin'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, Willis 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 three-time returning Gatorade Girls Track & Field Player of the Year and also the 2020-21 Gatorade National Player of the Year in the sport, the 5-foot-11 senior won the 800-meter race at the Division 1 state meet, leading the Panthers to a 12th-place finish as a team. At the time of her selection, Willis' winning time of 2:00.03 ranked No. 2 nationally among prep competitors in 2022 and No. 3 in U.S. history. She won a national championship in the 400-meter run at Nike Outdoor Nationals, crossing the line in 52.64, which ranked No. 4 in the country this spring. In April, she joined Olympians Heather MacLean, Kendall Ellis and Elle Purrier St. Pierre on a distance medley relay quartet that set a world record at the opening of The Track at New Balance in Boston.

Willis has volunteered locally as part of a pen pal program with elementary school students and children with special needs. An accomplished violin player, she has also donated her time with the Uplift Foundation, an organization that raises money for women and children in crisis throughout the country. "Coaching an individual like Roisin Willis has been an incredible experience," said Nate Olson, head coach of Stevens Point Area Senior High. "To most, Roisin is the greatest prep track athlete in Wisconsin history. To me, she is the most disciplined and dedicated athlete I have ever known."

Willis has maintained a weighted 4.06 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at Stanford 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.

Four-time winner Willis joins recent Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Brooke Jaworski (2017-18, Wausau West 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, Willis 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. Willis 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.