

**NETTLETON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ARKANSAS GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 28, 2023) — In its 38th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Donna Douglas** of **Nettleton High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Arkansas Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Douglas is the first Gatorade Arkansas Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Nettleton 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 Douglas as Arkansas' 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, Douglas joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Jasmine Moore (2018-19, Lake Ridge High School, Texas), Sydney McLaughlin (2016-17, 2015-16 & 2014-15, Union Catholic High School, N.J.), and Lolo Jones (1997-98, Roosevelt High School, Iowa).

The 5-foot-11 junior won the shot put with a state-record throw of 45 feet, 3 inches at the Class 5A state meet this past season, leading the Raiders to a sixth-place finish as a team. Douglas' record effort ranked No. 46 nationally among prep competitors this spring. Douglas swept the shot put and discus at both the Class 5A state meet and the Meet of Champions. Her winning discus throw of 147-11 at the MOC—a 40-foot improvement upon her sophomore year personal-best—ranked No. 57 nationally at the time of her selection.

Douglas has worked with My Little Angels Learning Academy, a community daycare facility, and she has volunteered locally as a babysitter. "Donna Douglas is not only the most complete female thrower in Arkansas in more than 35 years, but one of the most improved discus athletes in the country," said Erik Boal, editor at DyeStat.com. "In addition to setting the state shot put record, Douglas added 40 feet in the discus in the past year to move up to No. 2 in state history in the event."

Douglas has maintained a 3.05 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.

Douglas joins recent Gatorade Arkansas Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Olivia Pielemeier (2021-22, Lake Hamilton High School), Sydney Billington (2020-21, Bentonville High School), Cassidy Mooneyhan (2019-20, Pea Ridge High School), and Brea Clark (2018-19, El Dorado High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Being a Gatorade Player of the Year means paying it forward for the next generation. Through Gatorade's Play it Forward initiative, every Player of the Year receives a grant to give to one of Gatorade's social impact partners, supporting Gatorade's ambition to fuel the future of sport. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

For nearly 40 years, Gatorade has honored high school athletes at the top of their game as teammates, supporting their communities and achieving academic success. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes and community leaders, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport.

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.