

**MONTVERDE ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE FLORIDA 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 **Adaejah Hodge** of **Montverde Academy** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Florida Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Hodge is the first Gatorade Florida Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Montverde Academy.

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 Hodge as Florida'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, Hodge 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-2 junior won the national championship in the 200-meter dash with a time of 22.64 seconds at the New Balance Nationals Outdoor this past season. Hodge's best 200 time of the season of 22.60 seconds ranked No. 2 nationally among girls prep competitors this spring. Hodge ranked No. 3 nationally in the 100 (11.11) with both her 100 and 200 times ranking among the Top 10 clockings in girls prep history. This past winter, she set national high school and World Under-20 indoor records in the 200 breaking the tape in 22.33 at New Balance Nationals Indoor.

Hodge has volunteered locally with DreamPlex, which provides coaching for children with disabilities, and she's donated her time to Habitat for Humanity, the Youth Impact Project and Adopt-A-Highway. "Adaejah Hodge took on an ambitious schedule throughout the year, consistently challenging herself against professional and college competitors in her quest to become one of the elite prep athletes of all time," said Erik Boal, editor at DyeStat.com. "She clocked a historic time in the 200 this spring and turned in one of the most exceptional performances in World Under-20 history with her record-setting run in the 200 at the New Balance Nationals Indoor earlier this year."

Hodge has maintained a 4.04 weighted 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.

Hodge joins recent Gatorade Florida Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Alyssa Jones (2021-22, 2020-21, & 2019-20, Miami Southridge Senior High School) and Jan'Taijah Ford (2018-19, Northeast 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.