

**RICHLAND COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE ILLINOIS GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 28, 2023) — In its 38<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Tatum David** of **Richland County High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Illinois Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. David is the first Gatorade Illinois Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Richland County 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 David as Illinois' 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, David 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-6 senior won Class 2A individual state titles in the 1600 and 3200-meter events this past season and earned top 10 national rankings in four events. David clocked the nation's fastest 3200 by a prep girl in 2023 at the Herrin Girls Invite, breaking the tape in 9:48.94 and setting a new state record. She broke another state record, this time in the mile, with a second-place finish at the Brooks PR Invitational in 4:35.87. Her personal-best time of 2:05.29 in the 800 this season ranks No. 2 in state history among prep girls. She also ran the fastest indoor mile in state history this year, clocking a 4:38.80 to finish second at New Balance Nationals in March.

David has volunteered for the state attorney general's office completing clerical work at her local courthouse. She's also donated her time with the annual Little Tiger Track Meet in Olney and on behalf of Good Samaritan food drives, distributing Thanksgiving turkeys to underserved families in association with Meat Artisan. In addition to collecting and delivering stuffed animals to Masters Hands, Inc., a thrift store, David has served as a member of her school's the UNICEF Club, One Tiger Nation Club and Pep Club. "Tatum David produced the most impressive season of distance running in Illinois prep history, achieving state records in multiple events," said Erik Boal, editor at DyeStat.com. "She demonstrated she could dominate high school races and hold her own with professional athletes at showcase events, becoming the only female high school competitor to ever run sub-2:06 in the 800, under 4:38 in the mile and sub-9:50 in the 3200."

David has maintained a 5.09 weighted GPA (on a 4.0 scale) in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on scholarship at University of Virginia 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.

David joins recent Gatorade Illinois Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Ali Ince (2021-22, Normal Community High School), Jayden Ulrich (2020-21, East Alton-Wood River High School), and Katelynne Hart (2019-20 & 2018-19, Glenbard West 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](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).

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