

**DUPONT MANUAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE KENTUCKY 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 **Jessica Secor** of **DuPont Manual High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Kentucky Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Secor is the second Gatorade Kentucky Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from DuPont Manual 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 Secor as Kentucky'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, Secor 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 AAA state titles in the 800 and 1600 meter events, clocking a state-record 4:40.06 in the latter and leading the Maroons to the team title. Her 800 time was personal-best 2:10.13 and her fifth-place finish in the mile at the Brooks PR Invitational was also a career best clocking. Secor lowered her own state mile record to 4:40.98 to take third at New Balance Nationals, which ranked No. 8 among girls prep competitors in 2023. She earned dual All-America honors at New Balance by anchoring a 4xMile relay quartet to a third-place showing in 20:31.31.

The leader of her school's Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter, she's participated in multiple community service initiatives with her church youth group. "Jessica Secor capped a storybook career at DuPont Manual, winning state individual championships in the 800 and 1600 and helping a 4x400 relay finish that clinched back-to-back team titles," said Erik Boal, editor at DyeStat.com. "She broke the state record in the 1600 by a whopping 12 seconds, to boot."

Secor has maintained a 4.31 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on scholarship at University of Tennessee 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.

Secor joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Ciara O'Shea (2021-22, Madison Central High School) and Sophie Galloway (2020-21, Marshall County High School and 2019-20 & 2018-19, Graves County 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.