

**WESTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEBRASKA 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 **Lademi Davies** of **Westside High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Nebraska Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Davies is the first Gatorade Nebraska Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Westside 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 Davies as Nebraska'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, Davies 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-7 senior won four Class A state championships this past season, becoming the first female athlete in the history of the meet to achieve the feat by sweeping both the 100 and 200 meters, along with the long jump and triple jump, helping the Warriors place second overall. Davies is tied for No. 20 nationally in 2023 among girls high school competitors in the long jump with a wind-legal leap of 19 feet, 9.75 inches. She also earned All-America indoor honors in the long jump at New Balance Nationals, in addition to ranking in the top five outdoors in Nebraska prep history in the 100, 200 and long jump.

A National Merit Scholarship winner who achieved a perfect score of 36 on her ACT exam, Davies is also an award-winning oboist, who excels at playing the saxophone and piano as well. She has performed in the school's concert band, marching band, jazz band and Amazing Technicolor Show Band. She is also a member of the Warrior Speech Team and Quiz Bowl. In addition to serving as a Good News Church Grow Kids mentor and being a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, she is part of a local youth worship group. "Lademi Davies was the star of the Class A state meet with her ambition and versatility being rewarded with four individual state titles, becoming the first female athlete in the classification's history to achieve the feat," said Erik Boal, editor at DyeStat.com. "Davies demonstrated significant improvement throughout the season, developing into one of the most well-rounded competitors in the country in the sprints and horizontal jumps."

Davies has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She is attending the University of Texas on a music scholarship this fall and will be a preferred walk-on with the track and field team.

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.

Davies joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Dajaz DeFrاند (2021-22, Lincoln High School), Kailynn Gubbels (2020-21, Arlington High School), and Kalynn Meyer (2019-20 & 2018-19, Superior 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.

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