

**SOUTH GRANVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NORTH CAROLINA 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 **Shawnti Jackson** of **South Granville High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade North Carolina Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Jackson is the first Gatorade North Carolina Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from South Granville 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 Jackson as North Carolina'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, Jackson 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 set the national high school record this past season and matched the No. 1 world clocking in history for 18-year-olds in the 100-meter dash, breaking the tape in a wind-legal 10.89 seconds at the Music City Track Carnival. She also won Class 2A state titles in the 100, 200 and 400 to rank in the top three nationally among 2023 girls prep competitors in all three events among girls prep competitors. This past indoor season, Jackson produced the fastest performance in U.S. prep history in both the 60-meter dash, finishing fifth with a time of 7.16 seconds at the 2023 Millrose Games, and the 300, winning the 2023 Virginia Showcase in 36.63.

Jackson has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics and Habitat for Humanity in addition to serving as a camp counselor at a Creative Learning Daycare/Pre-K. She's also a youth mentor in her church community and also donates her time participating in local food drives and as a youth track coach for Run U Xpress. "Whether it was racing against her elite high school peers, college or professional athletes, Shawnti Jackson embraced competing at the highest level throughout the year, and the results were a trio of U.S. prep records," said Erik Boal, editor at DyeStat.com. "Jackson also continued to climb the World Under-20 ranks, highlighted by equaling the age 18 all-time best of 10.89 in the 100-meter dash."

Jackson has maintained a 3.0 weighted GPA. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on scholarship at the University of Arkansas 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.

Jackson joins recent Gatorade North Carolina Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Akala Garrett (2021-22 & 2020-21, Harding University High School) and Morgan Smalls (2019-20 & 2018-19, Panther Creek 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.