

**ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE ALABAMA GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 25, 2024) — In its 39<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Janie Ford** of **St. Paul's Episcopal School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Alabama Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Ford is the fifth Gatorade Alabama Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Paul's Episcopal School.

The award, which celebrates the nation's top high school athletes for excellence on the field, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Ford as Alabama's best high school girls track & field athlete. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport, touting an all-star group of alumni that includes Sanya Richards-Ross (2001-02, St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Fla), Sydney McLaughlin (2016-17, 2015-16 & 2014-15, Union Catholic High School, N.J.) and Angelina Napoleon (2022-23, Allegany-Limestone Central School, N.Y.).

The 5-foot-9 ½ junior hurdler/jumper won five individual titles at the Class 6A state meet this past season, leading the Saints to fourth place as a team. Ford broke the tape in the 300-meter hurdles and won the triple jump and also set personal-bests in winning the 100 hurdles with a time of 13.97 seconds as well as the long jump with a leap of 19 feet, 5.5 inches. The daughter of the 1994-95 State Girls Track & Field Player of the Year Camille (née Root) Ford, she set a state record to win heptathlon with a combined 5,257 points, a total which ranks No. 26 in U.S. prep history.

Editor of her school yearbook and president of St. Paul's Kindness Club, Ford has donated her time as part of community service initiatives with her Ashland Place United Methodist church youth group. "Janie Ford demonstrated next-level durability in winning four individual events while also dominating the heptathlon at the state meet," said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack.com. "She's made a convincing case that she's the best multi-event track and field athlete in state history."

Ford has maintained a 3.6 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.

Ford joins recent Gatorade Alabama Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Morgan Davis (2022-23, Saraland High School), Iyana Johnson (2021-22, Davidson High School) and Chanice Spicer (2020-21 & 2019-20, Brewbaker Tech), among the state's list of former award winners.

As part of Gatorade's commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$4.9 million in grants to winners across more than 1,900 organizations.

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 X(Twitter) at [x.com/Gatorade](https://x.com/Gatorade).