## SKYLINE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATOR ADE IDAHO 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 **Nelah Roberts** of **Skyline High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Idaho Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Roberts is the third Gatorade Idaho Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Skyline High 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 Roberts as Idaho'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 state's 2023-24 Gatorade Girls Cross Country Player of the Year, the 5-foot-7 senior distance talent swept the 800-meter, 1600 and 3200-meter events this past season, leading her team to a fifth-place finish at the Class 4A state meet. Competing in the 3200 at the Arcadia Invitational, she crossed the line 13th in 10:14.68, which broke the state record and ranked No. 25 in the nation among prep girls this spring. Her state meet 1600 win in 4:48.36 ranked No. 46 nationally.

Roberts has volunteered locally through her church by preparing turkey boxes for families in need at Thanksgiving. She has also served as Secretary for the Young Women Youth Group at her church, where she also plays the organ during services. "Unbeaten inside Idaho in both the 1600 and 3200 this season, Nelah Roberts' domination in the latter event spanned her entire prep career," said Rich Gonzalez, editor for PrepCalTrack.com. "A four-time state champion at 3200 meters, including breaking the state record this spring, she never lost a race at that distance in high school. Already a two-time Gatorade POY award winner in cross country, she's the clear choice to win her first POY award on the oval."

Roberts has maintained a 3.87 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on scholarship at Brigham Young University this fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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.

Roberts joins recent Gatorade Idaho Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Claire Petersen (2022-23, Skyline High School), Logan Smith (2021-22, Boise High School), Sammy Smith (2020-21, Boise High School) and Lexy Halladay (2019-20, Mountain View High School), 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 <u>playeroftheyear.gatorade.com</u> or follow us on social media on Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u>, Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u> and X(Twitter) at <u>x.com/Gatorade</u>.