PARKWAY CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MISSOURI GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 25, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Skyye Lee** of **Parkway Central High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Missouri Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Lee is the second Gatorade Missouri Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Parkway Central 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 Lee as Missouri'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-7 senior sprinter/hurdler broke a state record and won three gold medals this past season in leading the Colts at the Class 4 state championships. Lee broke the tape in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 13.34 seconds to eclipse the previous record and capture the state title, clocking the fourth-fastest time in the nation this spring. She also won gold in the 300-meter hurdles in 42.41, recording one of the Top 50 times in the nation, and in the 200, clocking a wind-aided 23.93.

Lee has volunteered locally on behalf of Diamond Divas, a group that helps empower young women who have faced domestic violence. She has also donated her time as a youth coach for the St. Louis Blues track and field club. "Amassing an unprecedented 13 state meet gold medals in her career, this highly decorated talent ranks as the only female in state meet history to earn four state individual golds in one season," said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack.com. "A high-hurdles specialist, Lee demonstrated amazing consistency in breaking 14 seconds on four occasions, including her final three postseason meets, and she set a new state record in her final race."

Lee has maintained a weighted B average in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on scholarship at the University of Florida 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.

Lee joins recent Gatorade Missouri Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Zaya Akins (2022-23 & 2021-22, Raytown South High School), Sydney Juszczyk (2020-21, Trinity Catholic High School) and Courtney Williams (2019-20, Nerinx Hall), 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>.