

LIVINGSTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEW JERSEY 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 **Jessica Oji** of **Livingston High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade New Jersey Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Oji is the first Gatorade New Jersey Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Livingston 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 Oji as New Jersey’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-10 junior thrower won the national title in the shot put this past season and secured dual All-America honors by taking bronze in the discus at New Balance Nationals Outdoor. At the Essex County Championships, Oji launched the shot 51 feet, 10 inches, which ranked as the No. 2 distance in the nation among prep girls in 2024. Only 31 prep girls in history have put the shot further. In NJSIAA Sectionals, she won by launching the discus 161 - 07, which ranked No. 16 nationally in 2024. She also won the shot put event at the state Meet of Champions

Oji has volunteered locally with The Crossing Church by assisting with its Sunday School program. She has also donated her time on behalf of the Salvation Army, assisting people living in a shelter in a nearby town. “Jessica Oji enjoyed a dream season of growth in laying the groundwork for a potentially monstrous senior campaign next spring,” said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack.com. “Managing nearly six feet of year-over-year improvement in the shot put and nearly 40 feet of progress in the discus throw, her results ledger and her All-American finish in the shot at nationals are impressive.”

Oji has maintained a 4.00 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.

Oji joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Layla Giordano (2022-23, Northern Valley Regional High School at Old Tappan), Angelina Perez (2021-22, Lakeland Regional High School), Lilly Shapiro (2020-21, Colts Neck High School) and Victoria Vanriele (2019-20, Governor Livingston 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 playeroftheyear.gatorade.com or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.