ROLESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATOR ADE NORTH CAROLINA 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 Joslyn Hamilton of Rolesville High School is the 2023-24 Gatorade North Carolina Girls Track & Field Player of the Year. Hamilton is the first Gatorade North Carolina Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Rolesville 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 Hamilton as North Carolina'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 senior hurdler/sprinter set two personal records and won three titles at the Class 4A state meet this past season, leading the Rams to the team championship. Hamilton also won a national title in the 100-meter hurdles, clocking a personal-best time of 13.37 seconds, which ranked No. 5 in the nation among girls prep competitors this spring. Her PR in the 300 hurdles clocked at the state meet (41.10) ranked U.S. No. 6. Her third state title in addition to the two hurdles events came in the 100 dash as she broke the tape in a personal-best 11.67, which ranked as one of the nation's Top 75 times in 2024.

Hamilton has volunteered locally with the No Child Hungry Meal Packaging initiative, which assembles and distributes meals to those in need. She has also donated her time organizing Thanksgiving meals for families facing food insecurity. "As a hurdler primarily, Joslyn Hamilton was quite comfortable leaving her comfort zone at the state meet—that's what champions do—and her points in the 100 dash reaped rewards for her team," said Rich Gonzalez, editor for PrepCalTrack.com. "One of the nation's premier barrier competitors, her 30 individual points keyed the Rams' one-point team win over runner-up Cuthbertson for the state title."

Hamilton has maintained a weighted 3.73 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on scholarship at the University of South Carolina 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.

Hamilton joins recent Gatorade North Carolina Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Shawnti Jackson (2022-23, South Granville High School), Akala Garrett (2021-22 & 2020-21, Harding University High School) and Morgan Smalls (2019-20, Panther Creek 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>.