

**FAIRFIELD CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH 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 **Sharmelle Holmes** of **Fairfield Central High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade South Carolina Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Holmes is the first Gatorade South Carolina Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Fairfield 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 Holmes as South 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-4 senior sprinter/jumper won the 100- and 200-meter dash as well as the long jump at the Class 2A state meet this past season, leading the Griffins to a third-place finish as a team. Holmes also ran the anchor leg for the winning 4x100-meter relay quartet at states. She earned All-American status by finishing fourth in the 100 at New Balance Nationals Outdoor with a time of 11.62 seconds. In 100 dash prelims at NBNO she clocked an 11.54, which ranked No. 32 nationally among girls prep competitors this spring. Her season-best 200 time of 23.67 ranked No. 39 nationally.

Holmes has volunteered locally as an assistant athletic trainer and as a youth track coach. “It’s hard to argue against someone who won four events like Sharmelle did,” said Chris White, head coach of Seneca High School. “She was amazing all year long and capped it off with a great state meet.”

Holmes has maintained a weighted 4.23 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of Kentucky 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.

Holmes joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Ticora Gaskin (2022-23, Westwood High School), Brianna Rodriguez (2021-22, Westwood High School) and Jayla Jamison (2020-21 & 2019-20, Airport 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.