

**EMERALD RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE WASHINGTON 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 **JaiCieonna Gero-Holt** of **Emerald Ridge High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Washington Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Gero-Holt is the first Gatorade Washington Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Emerald Ridge 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 Gero-Holt as Washington’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 6-foot-2 junior jumper/hurdler and heptathlete won three Class 4A state titles this past season, leading the Jaguars to the WIAA state team title. Continuing on to the USATF U20 Championships, Gero-Holt won the heptathlon with a combined score of 5,420 points, which ranked No. 1 nationally among prep girls competitors this spring and No. 12 in high school history. Her season-best high jump of six feet, 0.75 inches ranked No. 2 in the country in 2024 and her personal-best effort of 45-4.25 in the shot put ranked No. 52. In addition to winning the 100-meter hurdles, the shot put and the high jump at the state meet, her personal-best leap of 18-11.75 in the long jump earned her a silver medal.

Gero-Holt has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives through her church. She’s also participated in American Sign Language courses and is a member of AVID, an academic support program for first generation college students. “There aren’t many female high jumpers nationally who can clear six feet and 45-foot shot putters are at a premium too—it’s exceedingly rare for one athlete to achieve both,” said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack.com. “A one-woman highlight reel, Gero-Holt waltzed to three golds at her state meet before expanding her focus to win six of the seven events in the heptathlon at the USATF U20 Championships, punching her the World Athletics U20 Championships in Peru later this summer.”

Gero-Holt has maintained a 3.63 GPA in the classroom. She graduated a year early and has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on scholarship at the University of Illinois beginning 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.

Gero-Holt joins recent Gatorade Washington Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Hana Moll (2022-23, Capital High School), Amanda Moll (2021-22 & 2020-21, Capital High School) and Allie Janke (2019-20, North Central 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and X(Twitter) at [x.com/Gatorade](https://x.com/Gatorade).

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