

**SOUTHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH CAROLINA BOYS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 27, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Ian Johnson** of **Southside High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade South Carolina Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Johnson is the first Gatorade South Carolina Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Southside 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 Johnson as South Carolina’s best high school boys track & field player. 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 Alan Webb (2000-01, South Lakes High School, Va.), Kerron Clement (2002-03, Laporte High School, Texas) and Grant Fisher (2014-15 & 2013-14, Grand Blanc High School, Mich.).

The 5-foot-11, 135-pound senior sprinter swept the 100- and 200-meter dashes at the Class 3A state meet this past season, leading the Tigers to a 13th-place finish as a team. Johnson clocked 2024’s state-best time of 10.41 seconds in the 100 at the Class 3A, Region 2 meet. The 2024 All-Upstate Athlete of the Year, his top wind-legal 100 time of 10.43 ranked No. 38 nationally among boys prep competitors this spring.

Johnson has volunteered locally at a food bank and homeless shelter and he has donated his time as a youth track coach. “Ian Johnson put an exclamation point on an unbeaten season in the 100 dash by winning the USATF South Carolina Association Junior Olympic Championships title earlier this month,” said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack.com. “He was prolific in the 200 as well, winning his last six high school races and walking away with gold at states.”

Johnson has maintained a weighted 3.81 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at Clemson University 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.

Johnson joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Bryson Miller (2022-23, Dorman High School), T’Mars McCallum, Jr. (2021-22, Carolina Forest High School), Jaylen Boudreaux (2020-21, Cane Bay High School) and Tyler Graves (2019-20, Lower Richland 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.