GEORGE W. JENKINS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE FLORIDA GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 24, 2025) — In its 40th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Chelsi Williams** of **George W. Jenkins Senior High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Florida Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation's best high school athletes for their success on the field, in the classroom and in the community. The award distinguishes Williams as Florida's best high school girls track & field athlete, and she joins an impressive group of alumni that spans CEOs, coaches and star athletes such as Sanya Richards (2001-02, St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Fl.), Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone (2014-15, 2015-16 & 2016-17, Union Catholic High School, N.J.) and Angelina Napoleon (2022-23, Allegany-Limestone Central School, N.Y.).

The 5-foot-4 senior hurdler/jumper went unbeaten in the 100-meter hurdles, the long jump and the triple jump this past season, earning gold medals in all three events at the FHSAA Class 4A state meet and leading the Eagles to third place as a team. Williams' clocking of 13.28 seconds in the 100 hurdles at the FSU Relays ranked No. 4 nationally among prep girls competitors this spring. At that same event, she broke meet records in both the triple jump and long jump with her leap of 41 feet, 07.25 inches in the former ranking No. 8 nationally and her distance of 20-3 in the latter ranking No. 10 this spring.

Selected as Executive Officer of the school's Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps, Williams has volunteered locally by organizing the JROTC Toys For Tots as well as the Thanksgiving and Christmas food drives to benefit needy families. "Chelsi Williams has distinguished herself as among the nation's most remarkable talents, mastering four unique disciplines to shine brightest in one of the nation's hotbeds for high school track and field," said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack.com. "The freshly minted NCAA champion program at the University of Georgia is adding a weapon to its arsenal who is well-equipped to keep the Bulldogs in the title conversation for years to come."

Williams has maintained a 4.26 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to compete at the University of Georgia this fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states across 12 different high school sports – 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.

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 \$5.6 million in grants to winners across more than 2,000 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 Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u>, Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u> and X(Twitter) at <u>x.com/Gatorade</u>.

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