WEST WARWICK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE RHODE ISLAND 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 **Lisa Raye** of **West Warwick High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Rhode Island 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 Raye as Rhode Island'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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-5 senior sprinter won the 100- and 200-meter dash at the Arcadia Invitational in California this past season, and her clocking of 11.30 seconds in the former ranked No. 9 nationally among prep girls competitors this spring. Her 200 time of 23.30 ranked No. 21. Raye, who holds state records in the 100, 200, 100-meter high hurdles and 300-meter intermediate hurdles, also won the 100 and 200 dash at the All-State Meet, was the 100 dash champion at the New England Championships and placed second in the 100 at New Balance Nationals Outdoor. She set national records during the indoor track season in the 55- (6.63 seconds) and 60-meter (7.13 seconds) dash events.

Raye has volunteered locally as part of multiple fundraising campaigns to benefit the Izzy Foundation, which provides services and support to patients and their families at Hasbro Children's Hospital in Providence. She has also donated her time at middle school track meets and on behalf of the Special Olympics. "Where do you begin to express or tell the story of Lisa Raye?" said Ken Topalian, head coach of East Greenwich High School. "For three years, the state of Rhode Island has witnessed all of her accomplishments in track and field. The record book now is etched with Lisa's name for both indoor and outdoor track."

Raye has maintained a 3.41 weighted GPA in the classroom. She reclassified to the Class of 2025 and graduated early, signing 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 studentathletes, 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>.