## HUNTLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ILLINOIS GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 24, 2025) — In its 40<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Dominique Johnson of Huntley High School is the 2024-25 Gatorade Illinois 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 Johnson as Illinois' 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-6 senior jumper swept the long jump and the triple jump at the Class 3A state meet this past season, and her leap of 42 feet, 8.75 inches set a meet record and ranked No. 1 among prep girls competitors this spring. Johnson's winning mark of 19-2.75 in the long jump ranked No. 80 nationally. She is a five-time state champion, including three in a row in the triple jump.

A member of her school's Black Student Union, Johnson has volunteered locally as a youth track coach. "Who would ever think that an athlete who had previously endured a pars fracture of the spinal bridge could rebound to excel nationally in the most bone-jarring event in track?" said Rich Gonzalez, editor for PrepCalTrack.com. "That's precisely what Dominique Johnson did to become the best prep triple jumper in the land in 2025. She's amazing."

Johnson has maintained a weighted 4.32 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to compete at the University of Miami 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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