BULLIS SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MARYLAND 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 **Sydney Sutton** of **Bullis School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Maryland 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 Sutton as Maryland'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 6-foot senior sprinter and hurdler earned dual All-American status in the 400-meter dash and the 400-meter intermediate hurdles at New Balance Nationals Outdoor this past season. Sutton finished second in both events, and her time of 51.23 seconds in the 400 ranked No. 2 nationally among prep girls competitors this spring while her mark of 56.04 in the 400 hurdles ranked No. 3 nationally. The Washington Post All-Met Athlete of the Year for both indoor and outdoor track, she also ranked No. 2 nationally in the 200-meter dash (22.70) this spring.

A member of the Black Student Union, Sutton has volunteered locally with Habitat for Humanity and the Bullis Humane Society. She has also donated her time as a guest speaker and mentor with the Xceleration Nation Track Club. "Sutton clocked two Top 15 times in prep girls history in the 200 and 400 this season and added a 400 hurdles clocking that's in the Top 20 all-time," said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. "She also shared in three relay national titles, all of which rank in the Top 15 in girls high school history. If that's not the best track athlete in her state, I'll retire."

Sutton has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to compete at the University of Florida 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>.

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