

**STEVENS POINT AREA SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WISCONSIN GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 25, 2020) — In its 35th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Roisin Willis of Stevens Point Area Senior High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Willis is the second Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Stevens Point Area Senior High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Willis as Wisconsin's best high school girls track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year award to be announced in June, Willis joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Lolo Jones (1997-98, Roosevelt High School, Iowa), Allyson Felix (2002-03, Los Angeles Baptist High School, Calif.), Robert Griffin III (2006-07, Copperas Cove High School, Texas), Grant Fisher (2013-14 & 2014-15, Grand Blanc High School, Mich.) and Candace Hill (2014-15, Rockdale County High School, Ga.).

The state's returning Gatorade Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year, the 5-foot-11 sophomore broke the tape in the 400-meter dash at the 2020 Iowa Distance Festival with a time of 54.23 seconds, which ranked as the nation's No. 1 time among prep competitors during the abbreviated spring sports campaign. A year after setting the freshman national indoor record in the 800, Willis won her heat of the 800 at February's Boston University Last Chance indoor meet in 2:03.05, which ranked as the nation's No. 4 clocking in history among prep competitors. In the finals, she finished seventh behind two Olympians, three professionals and a collegian. She also took silver at the USATF Under-20 National Championships last summer in the 800, beating three collegians in the process, and she broke tape in the 800 at the Brooks PR Invitational.

Willis plays violin at the Aber Suzuki Center at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. She has volunteered locally at the Portage County Cultural Festival. "Roisin is one of those athletes that you dream of coaching and have no chance at beating if you have to coach against her," said Tim Olson, head coach of Wausau East High School. "I have rarely seen another athlete that has the kind of range and top-end speed that Roisin has."

Willis has maintained a weighted 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her junior year of high school 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 work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Two-time winner Willis joins recent Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Brooke Jaworski (2017-18, Wausau West High School), Josie Schaefer (2016-17, Baraboo High School), Mikaela Grant (2015-16, Jefferson High School), Cami Davre (2014-15, Whitefish Bay High School), and Kennedy Blahnik (2013-14, 2012-13 & 2011-12, Algoma High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit www.Gatorade.com/POY, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.

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