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PGHS Student-Athlete Javonte' Harding Named Gatorade Virginia Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year

PRINCE GEORGE, Va. - The Gatorade Company announced Prince George High School student-athlete Javonte' Harding was selected as its 2019-20 Gatorade Virginia Boys Track and Field Athlete of the Year, becoming the second student-athlete from Prince George High School to receive the honor.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character both on and off the field, distinguishes Harding as Virginia's best high school boys track and field athlete. Harding's selection makes him a finalist for the Gatorade National Boys Track and Field Athlete of the Year award to be announced in July.

The 5-foot-11-inch, 170-pound senior broke the tape in the 55-meter dash at the 2020 Class 5 Indoor state meet, and his season- and personal-best 55 dash time of 6.30 seconds ranked as the nation's No. 5 mark among prep competitors during the 2020 indoor season. Harding earned All-American honors by capturing second in the 100-meter dash at the 2019 New Balance Nationals Outdoor. His clocking of 10.39 seconds represents the state's No. 3 mark in history among prep competitors.

Harding, named *The Progress-Index* newspaper's Athlete of the Year in 2019, also ranked No. 22 nationally among prep competitors this winter in the 300-meter dash.

A member of his school's DECA club, Harding has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics and as a youth sports coach. In the classroom, he maintained a 3.14 GPA and has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at North Carolina A&T University.

"Javonte receiving the recognition as the Gatorade POY is well deserved," **Prince George High School Athletic Director Hezekiah Butler said.** "His accomplishments in Track and Field as a representative of Prince George High School are incredible and well-earned. To win several state titles and hold multiple

school records shows just how amazing of a student-athlete Javonte Harding is. One of the best we have had grace our track and field program.”

Harding joins PGHS alum John Warren, who was named Gatorade Virginia Boys Track and Field Athlete of the Year during the 2013-14 year.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, visit <https://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com/>.