

**NEWBURY PARK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE CALIFORNIA BOYS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 29, 2020) — In its 35th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Nico Young of Newbury Park High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade California Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Young is the first Gatorade California Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Newbury Park 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 Young as California's best high school boys track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year award to be announced in July, Young 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 5-foot-11, 135-pound senior raced to a time of 13:50.55 in the 5000-meter run this spring, which shattered the 34-year-old state record by 11 seconds and ranked as the nation's No. 4 clocking in history among prep competitors. The 2019-20 Gatorade National Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year, Young also set a national record of 7:56.97 in the 3000 in his only race of the 2020 indoor track season. Winner of the Nike Cross Nationals Final in December, he also won a 2019 outdoor track state championship in the 3200.

Young has volunteered for the past three summers as part of the Team Leadership program at Camp Many Mansions, a seven-week residential enrichment opportunity for youth from under-resourced communities. "Nico has proven to our team at Newbury Park that if you set your standards high and work hard, anything is possible," said Newbury Park coach Sean Brosnan. "He continued to train hard after winning Nike Cross Nationals in order to go after the High School 3000-meter indoor track record. Then he flew out to New York and accomplished his goal."

Young has maintained a weighted 4.68 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to run on scholarship at Northern Arizona University.

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.

Young joins recent Gatorade California Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Kenan Christon (2018-19, Madison High School), Sondre Guttormsen (2017-18, Davis Senior High School), Joseph Anderson (2016-17, Upland High School), Michael Norman (2015-16, Vista Murrieta High School), Michael Norman (2014-15, Vista Murrieta High School), and Nate Moore (2013-14, Castro Valley 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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