

**CORONADO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NEVADA BOYS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 29, 2020) — In its 35<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Justin Watterson of Coronado High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Nevada Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Watterson is the first Gatorade Nevada Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Coronado 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 Watterson as Nevada'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, Watterson 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 6-foot-1, 160-pound senior ranked No. 1 in the state in the 200-meter dash and the 60-meter hurdles during the 2020 indoor season. In the abbreviated 2020 outdoor season, Watterson ran the 110-meter high hurdles in 14.69 seconds, which ranked as the nation's No. 83 mark among prep competitors this spring. The 2019 Class 4A Outdoor state meet champion in the 300-meter intermediate hurdles, he ranks second all-time in state history in both the 300- and 400-hurdles.

A mentor to incoming freshmen at Coronado High, Watterson has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives through his church. "Justin has been an integral part of our program," said Tyrel Cooper, head coach of Coronado High. "He gets after it during every workout, often completing our team workout then heading to his club practices for additional work."

Watterson has maintained a weighted 4.12 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at Long Beach State University (Calif.).

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.

Watterson joins recent Gatorade Nevada Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Corey Moore (2018-19 & 2017-18, Liberty High School), Zachary Stallings (2016-17, McQueen High School), Zachary Hawley (2015-16, Dayton High School), Mark Rubalcaba (2014-15, Faith Lutheran High School), and Dominic Smallwood (2013-14, Silverado 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](http://www.Gatorade.com/POY), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](http://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](http://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).

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