

**ESSEX HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE VERMONT 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 Wyatt Lamell of Essex High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Vermont Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Lamell is the fourth Gatorade Vermont Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Essex 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 Lamell as Vermont'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, Lamell 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, 150-pound junior ranked among the state's top five competitors across five events during the 2020 indoor season. Lamell won the long jump by nearly two feet at the 2020 Division I Indoor Track & Field State Championships, and he also took second in the 300-meter dash and triple jump, while finishing third in the 55-meter dash. Lamell won the 2019 State Decathlon Championship last spring by more than 200 points, and his total of 5,639 ranked as the nation's No. 66 mark among prep competitors in 2019. He finished second in both the 400 dash and discus throw at the 2019 Division I outdoor state meet.

Lamell has volunteered locally as a youth track coach. "Wyatt is incredibly tough, both physically and mentally," said Katie White, head coach of Essex High School. "You can never count him out. He is a student of the sport and has drive and dedication that you don't often find."

Lamell has maintained a 3.56 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior 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.

Lamell joins recent Gatorade Vermont Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Simon Kissam (2018-19, Burlington High School), Zane Russom (2017-18, Mount Mansfield Union High School), Tyler Marshall (2016-17 & 2015-16, Champlain Valley Union High School), and Alec Eschholz (2014-15, 2013-14 & 2012-13, Mount Mansfield Union 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.

###