

**ST. JOHNSBURY ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE VERMONT BOYS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 29, 2022) — In its 37th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Evan Thornton-Sherman** of **St. Johnsbury Academy** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Vermont Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Thornton-Sherman is the fourth Gatorade Vermont Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Johnsbury Academy.

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 Thornton-Sherman as Vermont's best high school boys track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Track & Field Player of the Year award to be announced in July, Thornton-Sherman 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 (2014-15 & 2013-14, Grand Blanc High School, Mich.) and Candace Hill (2014-15, Rockdale County High School, Ga.).

The state's 2021-22 Gatorade Boys Cross Country Player of the Year, the 5-foot-11, 130-pound senior set a state record in the 1,500-meter run at the Division 1 state meet this past season, leading the Hilltoppers to a second-straight team title. Thornton-Sherman's winning time of 3:51.51 ranked No. 6 nationally among prep competitors in 2022 at the time of his selection. Thornton-Sherman owns five more state records, including the outdoor 3,000-meter run and the 4x800-meter and distance medley relays as well as the indoor 1,500, 3,000 and 2-mile.

A saxophone player in the school band, Thornton-Sherman helps run the St. Johnsbury **Academy** Recreation Department's summer track program. He has also volunteered locally as a lifeguard and at the Great Vermont Corn Maze, the largest recreational maze in New England. "Evan has become the most driven athlete I have coached in my 30 years in track and field," said Chip Langmaid, head coach of St. Johnsbury Academy. "He trains relentlessly and is driven to become the best. He has attacked the Vermont record book with a vengeance. His determination and fearless style has pulled his competition beyond what they had dreamed prior to the season."

Thornton-Sherman has maintained a weighted A average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of Maine 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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Thornton-Sherman joins recent Gatorade Vermont Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Wyatt Lamell (2020-21 & 2019-20, Essex High School), Simon Kissam (2018-19, Burlington High School), and Zane Russom (2017-18, Mount Mansfield Union High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Gatorade has a long-standing history of serving athlete communities and understands how sports instill valuable lifelong skills on and off the field. Through Gatorade's "Play it Forward" platform, Thornton-Sherman has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national organization of their choosing that helps young athletes realize the benefits of playing sports. Thornton-Sherman is also eligible to submit a short video explaining why the organization they chose is deserving of one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants, which will be announced throughout the year. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

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 playeroftheyear.gatorade.com or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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