

**WASHINGTON LATIN PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 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 Luke Tewalt of Washington Latin Public Charter School as its 2019-20 Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Tewalt is the first Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Washington Latin Public Charter 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 Tewalt as District of Columbia'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, Tewalt 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 state's 2018-19 Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year, the 5-foot-8, 123-pound senior swept the 800-meter run, the 1,600-meter run and the 3,200-meter run at the 2020 DCSAA Indoor Championships this past winter. Tewalt set meet records in both the 1600 and 3200, and his best marks in both events ranked in the Top 80 nationally among prep competitors indoors in 2020. An 11-time state champion, he set a state record in the 3,000 at February's Armory Leap Year Invitational in New York with a time of 8:28.95, which ranked as the nation's No. 4 mark among prep competitors.

Tewalt has volunteered locally at an outdoor adventure camp. "Luke's body of work over his four years is incredible," said Desmond Dunham, head coach of St. John's College High. "He has always carried himself in the utmost professional and sportsmanlike manner. He has point-scoring range from 400 to the 5K."

Tewalt has maintained a weighted 3.59 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at Wake Forest 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.

Tewalt joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Kendel Hammock (2018-19, Archbishop Carroll High School), Isaac Frumkin (2017-18, Woodrow Wilson High School), Eric Harrison (2016-17, St. John's College High School), Drew Glick (2015-16, Woodrow Wilson High School), Maurice Morris (2014-15, Roosevelt High School), and Acey Calhoun (2013-14, Woodrow Wilson 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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