

**ALLENTOWN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW JERSEY 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 Liam Murphy of Allentown High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade New Jersey Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Murphy is the first Gatorade New Jersey Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Allentown 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 Murphy as New Jersey'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, Murphy 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-10, 128-pound senior won the 3200-meter run with a time of 9:04.41 at the Group 3 indoor state meet this past winter, also capturing the 1600 in 4:13.83, which ranked as the nation's No. 3 clocking among prep competitors during the 2020 indoor season. The state's reigning Gatorade Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year, Murphy also broke the tape in the 3200 at the indoor Meet of Champions in 8:58.16, which ranked No. 5 nationally. He placed eighth at the Nike Cross Nationals Final this past December, and was second in the outdoor 3200 at the 2019 Group 3 state meet.

Murphy has volunteered locally on behalf of the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen. "Liam could not be beaten this winter, and he had his eye on two national championships before the indoor national meet was cancelled," said Allentown coach Rick Smith. "The cancellation of the spring season hurts that much more because of what a complete runner Liam has become since the end of last spring. His race instincts and toughness have always set him apart, but over the last calendar year, I saw a young man realize his full potential."

Murphy has maintained a 3.39 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to run on scholarship at Villanova 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.

Murphy joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Sean Dolan (2018-19, Hopewell Valley Central High School), Nickolas Mirabelli (2017-18, Rancocas Valley Regional High School), Cory Poole (2016-17 & 2015-16, East Orange Campus High School), Taylor McLaughlin (2014-15, Union Catholic High School), and Curtis Thompson (2013-14, Florence Township Memorial 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.