

**WEIR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA 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 Sebastian Spencer of Weir High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade West Virginia Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Spencer is the first Gatorade West Virginia Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Weir 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 Spencer as West Virginia'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, Spencer 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, 160-pound senior concluded his prep track career with seven state championships and the state record in the 100-meter dash with a clocking of 10.50 seconds. Spencer was unbeaten in the 100- and 200-meter dash during the 2019 outdoor season and set 12 meet and stadium records as a junior. A four-sport athlete who competed in both track and baseball during the spring, Spencer set meet records in the 100 and 200 at the 2019 Class AA outdoor state championships, eclipsing standards previously held by his brother and, prior to that, his father.

Spencer organized a fundraiser to benefit a Weir High School classmate diagnosed with cancer. He has volunteered locally as a youth tutor and track coach. "Sebastian is innately driven to excel in all he does and certainly accomplished that at Weir," said Tom Taylor, head coach of Weir High School. "Sebastian is the most successful and talented student-athlete I have had the honor of coaching in my 34 years of high school sports."

Spencer has maintained a weighted 4.0 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of North Carolina.

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.

Spencer joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Gavin Beverage (2018-19, Cabell Midland High School), Luke Nichols (2017-18, Nitro High School), Freddy Canary (2016-17, South Harrison High School), Tristan Slater (2015-16, Capital High School), and Christian Buckley (2014-15 & 2013-14, Poca 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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