

**NEWBURY PARK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE CALIFORNIA BOYS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (July 8, 2021) — In its 36th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Colin Sahlman of Newbury Park High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade California Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Sahlman is the second Gatorade California Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Newbury Park 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 Sahlman as California'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, Sahlman 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, 125-pound junior raced to the fastest prep 3200-meter run in the nation this past season, winning the event at the Arcadia Invitational with a time of 8:43.42. The state's reigning Gatorade Player of the Year in boys cross country, Sahlman was also among the nation's top four performers in three other events in 2021, ranking No. 2 in the 1500 (3:46.39), No. 3 in the 1600 (4:03.58) and No. 4 in the mile (4:04.86).

Sahlman has volunteered locally on behalf of a youth running camp and a program to feed the homeless. "Colin has a natural talent that he has been able to develop over the last three years to become a dominant competitor," said Newbury Park coach Sean Brosnan. "His ability to push himself beyond what others may think is possible is what really sets him apart from other athletes."

Sahlman has maintained an A average 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 works with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Sahlman joins recent Gatorade California Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Nico Young (2019-20, Newbury Park High School), Kenan Christon (2018-19, Madison High School), Sondre Guttormsen (2017-18, Davis Senior High School), and Joseph Anderson (2016-17, Upland High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Sahlman has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Sahlman is also eligible to submit a 30-second 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 \$2.7 million across 1,117 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, on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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