

**CONARD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE CONNECTICUT 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 **Gavin Sherry of Conard High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Connecticut Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Sherry is the second Gatorade Connecticut Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Conard 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 Sherry as Connecticut'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, Sherry 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-6, 130-pound junior shattered the state record with his title-winning 1600-meter run at the State Open this past season. His time of 4:01.88 ranked as the nation's No. 1 performance among 2021 prep competitors. The state's reigning Gatorade Player of the Year in boys cross country, Sherry also won the 3200 at the State Open with a meet record time of 8:59.80. His personal-best clocking of 8:47.20 in the 3200 this spring ranked No. 5 nationally.

Also a talented trombonist, Sherry has volunteered locally on behalf of multiple community service initiatives. "With a return to a more normal season of training, Gavin was able to focus his energy to perform at new levels at the conference and state championship meets," said Conard coach Ron Knapp. "His 1600-meter effort at the State Open was an exciting and fun race to watch, as he took advantage of a fast first half of 2:02 and decided to risk it all with a negative split for the final half."

Sherry has maintained a 4.39 GPA 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.

Sherry joins recent Gatorade Connecticut Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Sean Dixon-Bodie (2019-20, Bloomfield High School), Justin Forde (2018-19 & 2017-18, Brien McMahon High School), and Tyler Gleen (2016-17, Trumbull High School), among the state's list of former award winners.scho

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Sherry has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Sherry 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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