

**DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE FLORIDA BOYS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (July 8, 2021) — In its 36<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Leonard Mustari of Dunbar High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Florida Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Mustari is the first Gatorade Florida Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Dunbar 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 Mustari as Florida'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, Mustari 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 6-foot-3, 173-pound senior swept the 110- and 300-meter hurdles events at the state meet, leading the Tigers to a third-place finish as a team. Mustari clocked a personal-best in both races and also took second in the long jump with a career-best leap of 24 feet, 9.75 inches. At the time of his selection, Mustari ranked No. 4 nationally in the 110 hurdles (all-conditions) among 2021 prep competitors. He also ranked No. 6 in the nation in the long jump and No. 15 in the 300 hurdles. Rated No. 14 in the national MileSplit 50, he concluded his high school career with the No. 9 all-conditions 110 hurdles clocking in Florida high school history, according to MileSplit.com—a wind-aided 13.62 seconds.

Mustari has volunteered extensively on behalf of the Olympia Track Club's youth division, which primarily serves kids from low-income backgrounds. "Leonard dedicated himself to improving in all aspects of his sport, including weight training and plyometric power training, and he became one of the best sprinters and jumpers in the country," said Chris Singleton, an assistant coach at Dunbar High. "He has the potential to not just contribute, but to be dominant in seven events at the next level."

Mustari has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at the North Carolina A&T 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.

Mustari joins recent Gatorade Florida Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Jevon Williams (2019-20, Blanche Ely High School), Jacob Lemmon (2018-19, Fort Myers High School), Anthony Schwartz (2017-18, American Heritage School), and Damion Thomas (2016-17, Northeast High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Mustari has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Mustari 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com), on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).

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