

**ADEL-DESOTO-MINBURN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE IOWA 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 **Nate Mueller of Adel-Desoto-Minburn High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Iowa Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Mueller is the first Gatorade Iowa Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Adel-Desoto-Minburn 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 Mueller as Iowa'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, Mueller 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 state's reigning Gatorade Boys Cross Country Player of the Year, the 5-foot-8, 120-pound senior swept the 800-, 1,600- and 3,200-meter run events at the Class 3A state meet this past season, leading the Tigers to a second-place finish as a team. Mueller also took second at the Magis Mile in Chicago with a time of 4:07.09, which, at the time of his selection, ranked No. 9 nationally among 2021 prep competitors. He broke the tape in the 3200 at June's Running Lane Track Championships in a personal-best 8:56.31, which ranked No. 37 nationally at the time of his selection.

A two-time All-Conference honoree with the A-D-M boys basketball team, Mueller is a member of the leadership team with his local Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter. He has volunteered locally on behalf of an elementary school literacy-outreach program, and he has donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through his church youth group. "Nate was special this year," said Jordan Sump, head coach of Dallas Center-Grimes High. "We saw ADM a lot throughout the year and we always knew that we had the chance to see something that had never been done before. Nate had the capabilities to run from the front and set an unrelenting pace. Alternatively he can run you down from behind."

Mueller has maintained a 3.52 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at Iowa State University 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.

Mueller joins recent Gatorade Iowa Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Logan Jones (2019-20, Lewis Central High School), Joven Nelson (2018-19, Nevada High School), Nick Phelps (2017-18, Kingsley-Pierson/Woodbury Central), and Tristan Wirfs (2016-17, Mount Vernon High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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