

**STERLING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE KANSAS 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 **Tyus Wilson of Sterling High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Kansas Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Wilson is the first Gatorade Kansas Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Sterling 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 Wilson as Kansas 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, Wilson 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-6, 170-pound senior set a state meet record in the high jump this past season, clearing 7 feet, 2 inches at the Class 2A championships. Wilson also placed third in both the long jump and the 110-meter high hurdles. His career-best high leap of 7-3 at the James Thomas Invitational in April ranks as the nation's No. 1 performance among 2021 prep competitors.

A devoted member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Wilson has volunteered locally on behalf of youth track and gymnastics programs. "Tyus Wilson is one of those high school athletes that we don't see real often in Kansas," said Lewis Wiebe, Berean Academy coach. "He's a great competitor and he was outstanding and consistent all season long."

Wilson has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at the University of Nebraska 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.

Wilson joins recent Gatorade Kansas Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Sam Hankins (2019-20, Manhattan High School), Tim Lambert (2018-19, Smoky Valley High School), Michael Hoffer (2017-18, Shawnee Heights High School), and Kyler True (2016-17, Olpe High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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