

**WASECA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MINNESOTA 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 **Marcus Hansen of Waseca High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Minnesota Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Hansen is the first Gatorade Minnesota Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Waseca 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 Hansen as Minnesota'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, Hansen 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, 230-pound senior swept the shot put and discus events at the Class AA state meet this past season, leading the Blue Jays to a sixth-place finish as a team. Hansen's winning marks at the state meet were both personal bests. At the time of his selection, his 63 feet, 2.25 inches put of the shot ranked No. 14 nationally among 2021 prep competitors. The 2021 Mr. Track & Field Minnesota winner, Hansen also ranked No. 70 nationally in the discus this spring with a throw of 178-8.

A percussionist in the Waseca High marching and concert bands, Hansen is also a member of the Concerto Show choir as well as volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives through the National Honor Society. "Marcus has an off-the-charts work ethic," said Dave Abel, head coach of Waseca High. "He's a team player and is fun to coach."

Hansen has maintained a weighted 3.74 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play football on scholarship at Bemidji State University.

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.

Hansen joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Boys Track & Field Players of the Year AJ Green (2019-20 & 2018-19, Eastview High School), Samuel Moore (2017-18, Bertha-Hewitt/Verndale), and Jake Kubiawicz (2016-17, North High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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