

**HUNTLEY PROJECT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MONTANA 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 **Noah Bouchard of Huntley Project High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Montana Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Bouchard is the first Gatorade Montana Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Huntley Project 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 Bouchard as Montana’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, Bouchard 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-7 senior won the high jump and the javelin throw at the Class B state meet this past season, leading the Red Devils to a fourth-place finish as a team. Bouchard was victorious in the javelin on the first day of a three-day state meet, but tore his hamstring while running in the 110-meter hurdles race on the second day and had to withdraw from the long jump and triple jump. However, he returned the third day to win the high jump with a leap of 6 feet, 4 inches. At the time of his selection, Bouchard’s Class B state record high jump of 6-10 ranked No. 16 nationally among 2021 prep competitors.

Bouchard has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics and as a youth basketball coach. “Noah was an all-around exceptional athlete in track and field,” said Becky Eichelberger, head coach of Red Lodge High. “As a coach, I really enjoyed his athleticism and his drive to compete at an elite level.”

Bouchard has maintained a 3.37 GPA in the classroom. He remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Bouchard joins recent Gatorade Montana Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Julius Mims (2019-20, Skyview High School), Rylan Ortt (2018-19, Sentinel High School), Garrison Hughes (2017-18, Sidney High School), and Dawson LaRance (2016-17, Billings Senior High School), among the state’s list of former award winners.

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