

**ARCHBISHOP WOOD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA 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 **Gary Martin of Archbishop Wood High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Martin is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Archbishop Wood 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 Martin as Pennsylvania'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, Martin 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-1, 146-pound junior raced to victories in the 1600- and the 3200-meter run at the Class AAA state meet this past season, leading the Vikings to third place as a team. Martin captured the 3200 in a meet-record time of 8:54.87 and took the 1600 in 4:08.67. At the John Hay Pennsylvania Distance Festival, he set new state records in both the mile (4:03.53) and the 1600 (4:02.15). Martin's 1600 mark ranked as the nation's No. 2 personal-best performance among 2021 prep competitors.

Martin has volunteered locally on behalf of food-donation drives and youth sports programs. "In two years, Gary has gone from an obscure 400-meter runner—who didn't run cross country or indoor track—to one of the very best distance runners in the country," said Archbishop Wood coach Paul Streleckis. "Most of his success has come during the COVID pandemic. I think his ability to respond to this adversity and overcome the obstacles presented during this time epitomizes his success."

Martin has maintained an A average in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Martin joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Jaden Price-Whitehead (2019-20, Upper Dublin High School), Brock Grundy (2018-19, Hickory High School), Ayden Owens (2017-18, North Allegheny Senior High School), and Jordan Geist (2016-17, Knoch High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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