

**TAYLOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE TEXAS 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 **Bryce Foster of Taylor High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Texas Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Foster is the first Gatorade Texas Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Taylor 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 Foster as Texas' 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, Foster 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-5, 315-pound senior won the shot put at the Class 6A state meet this past season with a heave of 71 feet, 1 inch, which ranked as the nation's No. 1 performance among 2021 prep competitors and No. 25 in U.S. prep history. Foster also took third in the discus at the state meet, but his personal-best throw of 210-10 in that event back in April was the nation's No. 1 prep distance in 2021. He was named Male Field Athlete of the Year by the Texas Track and Field Coaches Association.

Also a football standout, Foster has volunteered as a mentor for at-risk elementary school students. "Bryce is one of the hardest-working, most respectful and genuine young men that I have run across in 34 years of coaching," said Taylor coach Chad Simmons. "He is unbelievably explosive, both as an offensive lineman in football and as a thrower in track and field. He's a once-in-a-career type athlete."

Foster has maintained a 3.87 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in football and track and field on scholarship at Texas A&M 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.

Foster joins recent Gatorade Texas Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Devon Achane (2019-20, Marshall High School), Matthew Boling (2018-19, Strake Jesuit College Preparatory), Tre'Bien Gilbert (2017-18, Judson High School), and Sam Worley (2016-17, Canyon High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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