

**ESSEX HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE VERMONT 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 **Wyatt Lamell of Essex High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Vermont Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Lamell is the fourth Gatorade Vermont Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Essex 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 Lamell as Vermont'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, Lamell 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 state's returning Gatorade Boys Track & Field Player of the Year, the 6-foot, 160-pound senior swept the 100-meter dash, the 300-meter hurdles and discus events at the Division 1 state meet this past season, leading the Hornets to a third-place finish as a team. Lamell also took third in the long jump. A week after the state meet, he cruised to the Vermont State Decathlon Championships crown for a second time. At the time of his selection, Lamell ranked No. 1 in the state in the 100-, 200- and 400-meter dashes as well as the 300 hurdles and the discus. He was also No. 3 in the long jump and No. 6 in the shot put.

Lamell has volunteered locally as a youth track coach. "Wyatt is a student of the sport," said Katie White, head coach of Essex High. "He has the rare combination of natural ability and drive to conquer any challenge or event he encounters."

Lamell has maintained a 3.64 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of Rhode Island 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.

Two-time winner Lamell joins recent Gatorade Vermont Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Simon Kissam (2018-19, Burlington High School), Zane Russom (2017-18, Mount Mansfield Union High School), and Tyler Marshall (2016-17, Champlain Valley Union High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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