

**LYMAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WYOMING 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 **Joseph Turner of Lyman High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Wyoming Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Turner is the first Gatorade Wyoming Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Lyman 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 Turner as Wyoming'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, Turner 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, 230-pound senior swept the shot put and discus events at the Class 3A state meet this past season, leading the Eagles to a fourth-place finish as a team. A two-time state champion in the discus, Turner's personal-best throw of 182 feet, 5 inches this spring ranked No. 42 nationally among 2021 prep competitors in the event in 2021 at the time of his selection. His career-best put of the shot of 61-2 in May ranked No. 38 nationally.

One of five boys in the state nominated for the Milward Simpson Award, Turner has volunteered locally as a youth basketball coach and as part of multiple community service initiatives through his church. He has also donated his time after school and on weekends to support and serve as a companion to a mentally challenged, wheelchair-bound student. "I had a chance to watch him in the last three meets of the year and I could see that he was peaking at the right time," said Josh Sanders, head coach of Lovell High. "He had a lot of confidence in his performance and ability. He was very explosive. He could spin quickly without sacrificing technique or losing control."

Turner has maintained a weighted 3.74 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at Utah State University 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.

Turner joins recent Gatorade Wyoming Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Peter Visser (2019-20, Star Valley High School), Wyatt Moore (2018-19, Star Valley High School), Brodie Roden (2017-18, Riverton High School), and McCade Johnson (2016-17, Laramie High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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