

**WEST VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ALASKA BOYS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 29, 2022) — In its 37th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Daniel Abramowicz** of **West Valley High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Alaska Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Abramowicz is the second Gatorade Alaska Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from West Valley 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 Abramowicz as Alaska'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, Abramowicz 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 (2014-15 & 2013-14, Grand Blanc High School, Mich.) and Candace Hill (2014-15, Rockdale County High School, Ga.).

The 6-foot-1, 150-pound senior won three individual events at the Division 1 state meet this past season, leading the Wolfpack to second place as a team. Abramowicz broke the tape in the 800-meter run in 1:57.09, the 1600 in 4:24.01 and the 3200 in 9:12.68.

Abramowicz has served as a peer tutor and has volunteered locally on behalf of the Golden Heart Rotary Club and Bethel Church. "Daniel is successful because he's talented, hard-working and very clear-headed," said West Valley coach Hannibal Grubis, "Even with all his accomplishments, I think that he has a lot more to show us with both his athletic and academic ability."

Abramowicz has maintained a 4.49 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to run on scholarship at the University of San Francisco 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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Abramowicz joins recent Gatorade Alaska Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Tristian Merchant (2020-21 & 2019-20, Anchorage Christian School), Terrel Johnson (2018-19, West Valley High School), and Jacob Moos (2017-18, Galena City Schools), among the state's list of former award winners.

Gatorade has a long-standing history of serving athlete communities and understands how sports instill valuable lifelong skills on and off the field. Through Gatorade's "Play it Forward" platform, Abramowicz has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national organization of their choosing that helps young athletes realize the benefits of playing sports. Abramowicz is also eligible to submit a short 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 \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 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 or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.