

**HILLHOUSE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE CONNECTICUT 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 **Gary Moore Jr.** of **Hillhouse High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Connecticut Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Moore Jr. is the second Gatorade Connecticut Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Hillhouse 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 Moore Jr. as Connecticut'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, Moore Jr. 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, 239-pound senior became the first athlete in Connecticut history to win State Open titles in the shot put, discus and javelin, heaving the shot 56 feet, 5.5 inches, launching the discus 187-10 and hurling the javelin 187-2. Moore also won a state title in the hammer throw with a throw of 201-7. He swept the shot, discus and javelin at the Class L state meet as well, and his season-best throws of 66-4.25 in the shot and 192-10 in the discus set new state records. He capped his season by placing fourth in the discus and sixth in the hammer throw at the New Balance Nationals Outdoor, earning All-American status in both disciplines.

Moore has volunteered locally on behalf of a youth track team as well as food donation drives for people in need. "Gary Moore always competes at a high level in three events," said Mike Gambardella, coach at Shelton High. "He also exhibits great character and sportsmanship. He's very deserving."

Moore has maintained a weighted 4.14 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on scholarship at Baylor 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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Moore Jr. joins recent Gatorade Connecticut Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Gavin Sherry (2020-21, Conard High School), Sean Dixon-Bodie (2019-20, Bloomfield High School), and Justin Forde (2018-19 & 2017-18, Brien McMahon High School), 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, Moore Jr. 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. Moore Jr. 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.

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