

**BELMONT HILL SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MASSACHUSETTS 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 **James Donahue** of **Belmont Hill School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Donahue is the first Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Belmont Hill 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 Donahue as Massachusetts' 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, Donahue 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, 150-pound senior set a state record in the mile run at the Brooks PR Invitational this past season, finishing fifth with a time of 4:01.39, which ranked No. 11 nationally among prep competitors in 2022 at the time of his selection. Donahue also earned All-American honors by taking third in the mile at the New Balance Nationals Outdoor. He won the 800-meter run at the New England Preparatory School Track Association Division I Championships in a meet-record 1:49.81, which ranked No. 11 in the country.

Donahue has volunteered locally as part of Belmont Hill's Thanksgiving Turkey Drive, which provides meals to underserved families in the Boston area. "James possesses a quiet confidence that allows him to dig deep into his ability and condition himself to perform at the highest level," said Scott Bosworth, head coach of Milton Academy. "He seems to always be in control of his emotions and strategy with the outcome being that he hits his goals and leaves his competitors racing for second place."

Donahue has maintained a 3.54 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of Virginia 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.

Two-time winner Donahue joins recent Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Alex Fleury (2019-20, Phillips Academy), Ryan Oosting (2018-19, Arlington High School), and Sam Welsh (2017-18, Concord Academy), 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, Donahue 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. Donahue 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.