

**CHRIST SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NORTH CAROLINA 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 **Rocky Hansen** of **Christ School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade North Carolina Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Hansen is the first Gatorade North Carolina Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Christ 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 Hansen as North Carolina'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, Hansen 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, 140-pound junior won three individual events at the North Carolina Independent Schools Athletic Association state meet this past season, leading the Greenies to second place as a team. Hansen won the 1600-meter run in a meet-record 4:12.50, while taking the 800 in 1:54.79 and the 3200 in 9:14.36. He won a national championship in the 2-mile at the New Balance Nationals Outdoor with a time of 8:46.97, which ranked as the nation's No. 2 performance among prep competitors in 2022, also placing second in the mile. At the RunningLane Track Championships, he set a state record of 4:00.76 in the mile, and his en-route time of 3:59.27 was the fastest 1600-meter time ever clocked by a North Carolina high school runner.

A member of his school's Environmental Conservation Club, Hansen has volunteered locally on behalf of a food pantry and trail maintenance projects. "Simply put, Rocky excels at whatever he puts his mind towards," said Christ School coach Randy Ashley. "I've been his coach since he was 10 years old and he has, unequivocally, been the most sincere, dedicated athlete I've had in that time."

Hansen has maintained a weighted 4.51 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Hansen joins recent Gatorade North Carolina Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Spencer Williams (2020-21, Davie County High School), Cameron Rose (2019-20, Hickory Ridge High School), Kyle Durham (2018-19, Weddington High School), and Jamar Davis (2017-18, Orange 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, Hansen 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. Hansen 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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