

**CANFIELD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OHIO 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 **Nick Plant** of **Canfield High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Ohio Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Plant is the first Gatorade Ohio Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Canfield 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 Plant as Ohio'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, Plant 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, 165-pound senior broke the meet record while winning the Division 1 state championship in the 800-meter run this past season, crossing the line in 1:48.65. Plant also broke the overall state record with his second-place clocking of 1:48.52 in the 800 at the Brooks PR Invitational. That time ranked as the nation's No. 5 performance among prep competitors in 2022.

Plant has volunteered locally on behalf of food donation drives for people in need, his church's religious education program and a youth track and cross country club. "Nick had an outstanding career and senior season," said Canfield High School coach Nick Wagner. "He has a natural talent that he's been able to develop and improve on over the last four years to become a dominant competitor in any race he runs."

Plant has maintained an A average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to run on scholarship at Virginia Tech 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.

Plant joins recent Gatorade Ohio Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Justin Braun (2020-21 & 2019-20, Thomas Worthington High School), Evan Matthews (2018-19, Pickerington Central High School), and Dustin Horter (2017-18, Lakota East 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, Plant 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. Plant 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.