

**ARCHBISHOP WOOD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA 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 Martin** of **Archbishop Wood High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Martin is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Archbishop Wood 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 Martin as Pennsylvania'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, Martin 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, 146-pound senior raced to victories in the 1600-meter run and the 800-meter run at the Class AAA state meet this past season. The state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year in boys track and field, Martin broke the tape in the 800 in 1:51.24 and took the 1600 in 4:01.56. At the Philadelphia Catholic League Championships, he won the mile in 3:57.98, the fastest time in a high school-only race (or a high school race without a pace-setting rabbit) in U.S. prep history. Martin's fastest overall mile time of 3:57.89 ranked as the nation's No. 2 performance among prep competitors in 2022 and No. 4 in U.S. history. He capped his season with a national championship in the mile (4:03.57) at the New Balance Nationals Outdoor.

Martin has volunteered locally on behalf of food donation drives for the people in need and youth sports programs. "I was blessed this past year to see Gary grow into one of the finest high school distance runners ever," said Archbishop Wood High School coach Paul Streleckis. "He chose to close out his high school career winning the New Balance National mile championship in front of the hometown crowd in Philadelphia. I can't think of how anyone could have represented the sport better than Gary Martin."

Martin has maintained an A average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to run 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 Martin joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Jaden Price-Whitehead (2019-20, Upper Dublin High School), Brock Grundy (2018-19, Hickory High School), and Ayden Owens (2017-18, North Allegheny Senior 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, Martin 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. Martin 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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