

**SAINT RAPHAEL ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE RHODE ISLAND BOYS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 29, 2022) — In its 37<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Devan Kipyego** of **Saint Raphael Academy** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Kipyego is the third Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Saint Raphael Academy.

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 Kipyego as Rhode Island'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, Kipyego 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 state's 2021-22 Gatorade Boys Cross Country Player of the Year, the 5-foot-8, 130-pound junior set a state record in the mile run at the Brooks PR Invitational. Kipyego won bronze in the race with a time of 4:00.64, which ranked No. 7 nationally among prep competitors in 2022 at the time of his selection as well as No. 27 in high school history. Kipyego won the national championship in the 2,000-meter steeplechase and finished fourth in the mile at New Balance Nationals Outdoor, earning double All-American status. He also won the 400- dash, and the 800-, 1,500- and 3,000-meter runs at the Class C Championship, leading the Saints to the team title. His top time of 8:20.52 in the 3,000 at the Sgt. Brian St. Germain Invitational also set a school record and ranked No. 12 in the country this spring. His older brother, Darius, was the 2019-20 and 2020-21 Gatorade Rhode Island Track & Field Player of the Year.

Kipyego has volunteered at local road races, and he has donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through his church. "Watching Devan compete is truly inspiring," said Matty Bennett, head coach of Moses Brown School. "No matter the meet, he goes above and beyond for his team. He would do anything for his team, whether that means running a 3K in 90-plus degree heat after already having run three events, or if it's anchoring a 4x800 [relay] at the state meet, Devan is an inspiration."

Kipyego has maintained a weighted B-plus average 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.

Kipyego joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Darius Kipyego (2020-21 & 2019-20, Saint Raphael Academy), Conor Murphy (2018-19, Classical High School), and Jeffery Pedersen (2017-18, East Greenwich 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, Kipyego 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. Kipyego 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).

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