

**BANGOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MAINE GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 30, 2022) — In its 37<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Anna Connors** of **Bangor High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Maine Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Connors is the first Gatorade Maine Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Bangor 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 Connors as Maine's best high school girls track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Track & Field Player of the Year award to be announced in July, Connors 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 5-foot-6 junior swept all three sprint events at the Class A state meet this past season, leading the Rams to the state championship as a team. Connors broke the tape in the 100-meter dash with a time of 12.21 seconds, while capturing the 200 in 25.10. She also won the 400 in 56.01

Connors has served as an elementary school mentor and has volunteered locally on behalf of a summer track program for children. "In my 20-plus years of coaching high school athletics, Anna is one of the most driven athletes I've seen," said Bangor High School coach Alan Mosca. "This year, she was nursing an injury to her quadriceps that could have derailed her season, but she took it as a challenge. She overcame the injury, won three individual events and helped lead her team to a state title."

Connors has maintained a weighted 4.56 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her 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.

Connors joins recent Gatorade Maine Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Victoria Bossong (2020-21, 2019-20, & 2018-19, Cheverus High School), and Nyagoa Bayak (2017-18, Westbrook 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, Connors 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. Connors 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).