

**KENNETT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW HAMPSHIRE GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 28, 2023) — In its 38th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Aida Wheat** of **Kennett High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Wheat is the second Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Kennett 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 Wheat as New Hampshire'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, Wheat joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Jasmine Moore (2018-19, Lake Ridge High School, Texas), Sydney McLaughlin (2016-17, 2015-16 & 2014-15, Union Catholic High School, N.J.), and Lolo Jones (1997-98, Roosevelt High School, Iowa).

The 5-foot-2 junior won the 100- and 200-meter dashes at both the Division II state meet and the New Hampshire Meet of Champions this past season, clocking her fastest career wind-legal performances of 12.20 and 25.00 seconds at the latter event. Wheat also contributed to a pair of top-five relay efforts at the state final. In addition, she finished in the top seven in the 100 and 200 at the New England Championships and concluded 2023 as the state's No. 1 girls high school competitor in both events.

An aspiring architect and three-sport athlete, Wheat is also a member of the SkillsUSA Drafting team that represented New Hampshire at the SkillsUSA national competition in Atlanta. She has also been involved in fundraising initiatives for SkillsUSA, in addition to volunteering locally with Angels and Elves by sponsoring a child to receive Christmas presents. "Aida Wheat rose to the occasion to not only win Division II state championships in the 100 and 200 and lead her team to a third-place finish, but also sweep both sprint events at the New Hampshire Meet of Champions," said Erik Boal, editor at DyeStat.com. "Wheat built on that success to place in the top seven of both finals at the New England championships."

Wheat has maintained a 4.14 weighted 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.

Wheat joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Soraya Ross (2021-22, Nashua South High School), Addison Cox (2020-21, Coe-Brown Northwood Academy), Caroline Fischer (2019-20, Bishop Guertin High School), and Grace Devanny (2018-19, Concord High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Being a Gatorade Player of the Year means paying it forward for the next generation. Through Gatorade's Play it Forward initiative, every Player of the Year receives a grant to give to one of Gatorade's social impact partners, supporting Gatorade's ambition to fuel the future of sport. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

For nearly 40 years, Gatorade has honored high school athletes at the top of their game as teammates, supporting their communities and achieving academic success. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes and community leaders, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport.

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.