

**JUNIPERO SERRA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE CALIFORNIA BOYS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 29, 2023) — In its 38th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Rodrick Pleasant** of **Junipero Serra High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade California Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Pleasant is the first Gatorade California Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Junipero Serra 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 Pleasant as California'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, Pleasant joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Nico Young (2019-20, Newbury Park High School, Calif.), Michael Norman (2015-16 & 2014-15, Vista Murrieta High School, Calif.), Grant Fisher (2014-15 & 2013-14, Grand Blanc High School, Mich.) and Robert Griffin III (2006-07, Copperas Cove High School, Texas).

The 5-foot-11, 175-pound senior swept the 100- and 200-meter dashes at the CIF championships this past season, leading the Cavaliers to a seventh-place finish as a team. Pleasant broke the tape in the 100 in a meet-record 10.20 seconds, while capturing the 200 in 20.67. Pleasant's season-best 100 clocking—10.14 seconds—matched his own state record and ranked No. 3 nationally among prep competitors this spring. His top 200 (20.53) ranked No. 5 nationally.

The recipient of a West Coast Sports Medicine Foundation Scholarship, Pleasant has volunteered locally as a youth track coach. "Roderick Pleasant is the greatest 100-meter dash high school talent in Golden State history," said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack.com. "Also a standout on the football team, this explosive athlete broke the state meet record and tied his own state record in the 100, and ranked in this spring's top five nationally among prep boys in both the 100 and 200."

Pleasant has maintained a weighted 3.24 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on a football scholarship at the University of Oregon 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.

Pleasant joins recent Gatorade California Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Colin Sahlman (2021-22 & 2020-21, Newbury Park High School), Nico Young (2019-20, Newbury Park High School), and Kenan Christon (2018-19, Madison 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.