

**STONINGTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE CONNECTICUT BOYS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 29, 2023) — In its 38<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Joshua Mooney** of **Stonington High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Connecticut Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Mooney is the first Gatorade Connecticut Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Stonington 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 Mooney as Connecticut'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, Mooney 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 6-foot-3, 190-pound senior won the national championship in the 110-meter high hurdles at New Balance Nationals Outdoor this past season. Mooney's winning time of 13.48 seconds set a state record and ranked No. 5 nationally among prep competitors in 2023. He also won three gold medals at the State Open meet in the 100 hurdles, the 300 low hurdles and the javelin, where his throw of 201 feet, 2 inches ranked No. 19 nationally this spring.

Mooney has volunteered locally on behalf of the Stonington Recreation Department and with VOICE, a program that works to ensure the needs of elementary school students are met. He has also donated his time as a member of his school's Link Crew. "Joshua Mooney delivered a rarity in Connecticut State Open annals, not only in securing three titles, but in mastering the javelin as part of that rare championship combination," said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack.com. "Mooney was at his absolute best over the barriers, winning the 110-meter hurdles title at New Balance Nationals in what was a state-record time."

Mooney has maintained a 3.57 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on scholarship at the University of Connecticut 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.

Mooney joins recent Gatorade Connecticut Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Gary Moore Jr. (2021-22, Hillhouse High School), Gavin Sherry (2020-21, Conard High School), Sean Dixon-Bodie (2019-20, Bloomfield High School), and Justin Forde (2018-19, Brien McMahon 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](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).