

**MONTVERDE ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE FLORIDA 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 **Issam Asinga** of **Montverde Academy** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Florida Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Asinga is the second Gatorade Florida Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Montverde 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 Asinga as Florida'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, Asinga 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, 178-pound senior broke one national record and set an all-conditions national record in a second event this past season. Asinga crossed the finish line third in the 200-meter dash at the Corky/Crofoot Shootout with a time of 19.87 seconds to break the national record. He also clocked a 9.83 in the 100 dash in two separate wind-aided races, the fastest prep clockings under all conditions. Asinga also won the national title in the 100 at New Balance Nationals Outdoor, while his top wind-legal 100 time of 10.02 seconds at the Star Athletic Sprint Series ranked No. 3 in U.S. prep history. He also took second in the 200, clocking a 20.25, against a field of pros at the NYC Grand Prix.

Asinga has volunteered locally on behalf of Habitat For Humanity and the Youth Impact Project. A member of the DiscoveryBound National Leadership Council, he has also donated his time with DreamPlex as a youth coach for children with intellectual and physical challenges. A photographer and videographer for his school as well, he has spent many hours performing cleanup and clearing duties at an equine center. "No prep track athlete across America grabbed more attention this spring than Issam Asinga," said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack.com. "As if eclipsing the national 200-meter record weren't enough, he dropped four sub-10-second, wind-aided performances in the 100. Among his season highlights was defeating reigning 200-meter world champion and pro Noah Lyles head-on at 100 meters."

Asinga has maintained a 3.15 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on scholarship at Texas A&M University 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.

Asinga joins recent Gatorade Florida Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Micah Larry (2021-22, Montverde Academy), Leonard Mustari (2020-21, Dunbar High School), Jevon Williams (2019-20, Blanche Ely High School), and Jacob Lemmon (2018-19, Fort Myers 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.

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