

**MADISON CENTRAL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE KENTUCKY 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 **Wyatt Stewart** of **Madison Central** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Kentucky Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Stewart is the first Gatorade Kentucky Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Madison Central.

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 Stewart as Kentucky'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, Stewart 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, 159-pound senior broke both the state record in the pole vault this past season and also won the Class 3A individual title. His clearance of 16 feet, eight inches established a new meet record at states, but Stewart had already obliterated the state standard by clearing 17-7.75 inches April, which held up as the No. 1 clearance by a prep boy in 2023. The mark ranks No. 25 in U.S. Prep history. He closed out his season by winning silver at the New Balance Nationals Outdoor with a vault of 16-04.75.

Stewart has volunteered locally on behalf of multiple community service initiatives in association with his church community. A member of DECA, a club for aspiring business leaders, he has also participated in choir and musical theatre programs at Madison Central. "Wyatt Stewart vaulted his way to the top of the field among national prep boys in 2023 and now ranks No. 1 in prep history among Kentucky competitors," said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack.com. "At season's end, the University of South Dakota-bound standout successfully battled pesky winds to earn the silver medal at New Balance Nationals."

Stewart has maintained a weighted 3.38 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of South Dakota 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.

Stewart joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Cade Flatt (2021-22, Marshall County High School), Mario Paul (2020-21, Paul Laurence Dunbar High School), Christian Lewis (2019-20, Frederick Douglass High School), and Langston Jackson (2018-19, Henry Clay 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.