

**JOHN CURTIS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE LOUISIANA 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 **Justin Horne** of **John Curtis Christian School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Louisiana Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Horne is the second Gatorade Louisiana Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from John Curtis Christian 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 Horne as Louisiana'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, Horne 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-2, 215-pound senior swept the hurdling events at the Class 5A state meet this past season, leading the Patriots to a third place finish as a team. Horne broke the tape in the 110-meter hurdles in a time of 13.82 seconds. He won the 300 hurdles in 37.25. He graduated as the state record-holder in the 100 hurdles—a personal-best clocking of 13.64, which ranked No. 24 nationally among prep boys in 2023. His PR of 37.24 in the 300 at the Class 5A district meet was nation's No. 23 time in the event this spring.

Horne has volunteered locally by coaching a junior high track and field club and by serving as a martial arts dojo. He has also donated his time to the Spirit Club and the youth choir at his school. "Justin Horne had already smashed the state record in the 110 hurdles by Week Two of the 2023 season," said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack.com. "But the victories kept piling up throughout the season as the Texas Tech University-bound senior earned U.S. Top 25 rankings in both hurdle events en route to a sweep at states."

Horne has maintained a 3.31 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at Texas Tech 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.

Horne joins recent Gatorade Louisiana Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Jack Larriviere (2021-22, Jesuit High School), Kashie Crockett (2020-21, Ouachita Parish High School), and Sean Burrell (2019-20 & 2018-19, Zachary 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.