

**OTTAWA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MICHIGAN 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 **Benne Anderson** of **Ottawa Hills High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Michigan Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Anderson is the first Gatorade Michigan Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Ottawa Hills 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 Anderson as Michigan'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, Anderson 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, 155-pound senior won the 1600-meter run at the OK Gold Conference Championships this past season with a time of 4:01.60, which ranked No. 1 nationally among prep competitors in 2023. Anderson completed an unbeaten campaign in the event by winning gold at the Lower Peninsula Division 1 state meet. He won the 3200 at the Distance Night Under the Lights by 37 seconds, and his time of 8:40.90 ranked No. 4 nationally this spring. He also ranked No. 13 nationally in the 800 (1:49.68) and No. 44 in the mile (4:08.62).

An Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America, Anderson helped create a wheelchair-accessible sidewalk for a local business as his culminating project. He has volunteered locally at a nursing home and at a summer camp for children with physical and intellectual challenges. "Benne Anderson solidified his place amongst Michigan's all-time prep distance greats this season," said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack.com. "His decision to forego the indoor campaign to focus on the outdoor arena reaped major dividends, resulting in an unbeaten 2023 that included the nation's fastest 1600-meter run and fourth-fastest 3200 time."

Anderson, who attends City High School while competing for Ottawa Hills, has maintained a 3.66 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on scholarship at Syracuse 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.

Anderson joins recent Gatorade Michigan Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Zane Forist (2021-22, Carson City-Crystal High School), Hobbs Kessler (2020-21, Skyline High School), Dylan Targgart (2019-20, Coldwater High School), and Nick Foster (2018-19, Pioneer 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.