

**ROSEMOUNT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MINNESOTA 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 **Hayden Bills** of **Rosemount High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Minnesota Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Bills is the second Gatorade Minnesota Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Rosemount 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 Bills as Minnesota'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, Bills 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-4, 230-pound senior completed an undefeated campaign in the shot put and discus this past season by winning both events at the Class AAA state meet, leading the Irish to a state title as a team. Bills set a state record at the meet, winning the discus by 34 feet with a throw of 207 feet even, which ranked No. 3 nationally among prep competitors in 2023. Bills also set a state record at the True Team Championships by putting the shot 66-8.75, which ranked No. 4 nationally.

Bills has volunteered locally as a mentor to at-risk youth. "This past season Hayden Bills delivered one of the most dominant track and field seasons in state history," said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack.com. "In addition to recording a pristine ledger in completing unbeaten seasons in both throwing events, the Gopher State standout twice etched his name into the history books by breaking all-time state records in both the shot put and the discus throw. He was one of just two throwers in America to rank among the top five nationally in both events this spring."

Bills has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on scholarship at Arizona State 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.

Bills joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Ramy Ayoub (2021-22, Farmington High School), Marcus Hansen (2020-21, Waseca High School), and AJ Green (2019-20 & 2018-19, Eastview 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).