## BOZEMAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MONTANA 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 **Weston Brown** of **Bozeman High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Montana Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Brown is the third Gatorade Montana Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Bozeman 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 Brown as Montana'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, Brown 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 5-foot-9, 130-pound senior won a two-mile title at the Nike Outdoor Nationals this past season, breaking the tape with a time of 8:53.02. Brown also swept the 1600- and 3200-meter events at the Class A state meet, clocking winning times of 4:10.68 and 9:11.76, respectively. He was among a select few prep boys to finish the season ranked among the Top 100 nationally in five events: the mile, two-mile, 800, 1600 and 3200.

Brown has volunteered locally at a community center for the intellectually and physically challenged and participated in a three-week service-mission in Tanzania to build a locker room and coach underserved kids who play soccer. "Ever since turning his focus from soccer to distance running in his junior year, Weston Brown has been among the fastest-rising stars within the sport," said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack.com. "His latest conquest in winning the two-mile title at Nike Outdoor Nationals delivered an inspiring message to runners from all pockets of the country that population doesn't dictate success."

Brown has maintained a weighted 4.09 GPA in the classroom. He will attend Princeton University this fall, where he will compete in track and field.

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.

Brown joins recent Gatorade Montana Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Garret Coley (2021-22, Gallatin High School), Noah Bouchard (2020-21, Huntley Project High School), Julius Mims (2019-20, Skyview High School), and Rylan Ortt (2018-19, Sentinel 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 <a href="mailto:facebook.com/Gatorade">facebook.com/Gatorade</a> and Twitter at <a href="mailto:twitter.com/Gatorade">twitter.com/Gatorade</a>.