

**UNITED LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OHIO 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 **Kaleb Nastari** of **United Local High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Ohio Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Nastari is the first Gatorade Ohio Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from United Local 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 Nastari as Ohio'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, Nastari 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-10, 150-pound senior set a state-record in the 800-meter run at the Division 3 state meet this past season, leading the Eagles to a tie for 10th place as a team. Nastari broke the tape in 1:48.31, which ranked No. 6 nationally among prep competitors in 2023. He backed up that state record by winning the 800 title at Nike Outdoor Nationals with a time of 1:49.25. He also won the Emerging Elite Mile at nationals in 4:13.95.

Nastari has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives through Ruritan National, a service club in small towns and rural areas. "Kaleb Nastari proved to be predictably stellar in what is often the most unpredictable event in the sport," said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack.com. "The national leader entering the postseason, the Union Local High senior won his first national title at Nike Outdoor Nationals. His winning time of 1:48.31 two weeks earlier at the state meet broke the state record and slotted him into the Top 35 in U.S. prep history."

Nastari has maintained a 3.88 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on scholarship at Penn 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.

Nastari joins recent Gatorade Ohio Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Nick Plant (2021-22, Canfield High School), Justin Braun (2020-21, Westerville Central High School & 2019-20, Thomas Worthington High School), and Evan Matthews (2018-19, Pickerington Central 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.