

**STILLWATER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OKLAHOMA 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 **Keegan Thomas** of **Stillwater High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Oklahoma Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Thomas is the second Gatorade Oklahoma Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Stillwater 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 Thomas as Oklahoma'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, Thomas 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, 165-pound senior set a pair of state records while competing at the national RunningLane Track Championships this past season. Thomas placed second in the 3200-meter run in 8:50.14, which ranked No. 24 nationally among prep competitors in 2023, and he finished third in the mile with a time of 4:10.19, which ranked No. 69 nationally this spring. He won both the 1600 run and the 3200 at the Class 6A state meet, leading the Pioneers to a third place finish as a team.

Thomas has volunteered locally at a food pantry and has donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through the Sunnybrook Youth Ministry. "Keegan Thomas went unbeaten on Oklahoma soil this past season," said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack.com. "But it was his trip to Alabama for the RunningLane Championships that provided the challenge he needed to break state records in both the mile and 3200, earning dual All-America honors to close out a stellar prep career."

Thomas has maintained a weighted 4.11 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on scholarship at Oklahoma 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.

Thomas joins recent Gatorade Oklahoma Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Jayden Rowe (2021-22, Union High School), Tevin Williams (2020-21, Stillwater High School), Bobby Wood (2019-20, Putnam City High School), and J.T. McCloud (2018-19, Union 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.