

**LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE RHODE ISLAND 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 **Christian Toro** of **Lincoln High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Toro is the first Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Lincoln 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 Toro as Rhode Island'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, Toro 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-2, 220-pound senior won a pair of Class B state titles in the hammer throw and discus events this past season, sparking the Lions to a third place finish as a team. At the RIIL State Championships, Toro upped the ante, launching the 12-pound hammer a personal-best 229 feet, 3 inches to win the meet championship with a throw that ranked No. 2 among prep boys in 2023. Only 13 prep boys have launched the implement farther in Rhode Island history and the mark ranks No. 40 nationally in U.S. prep history. Toro also took second in the discus throw at states with a personal-best effort of 152-5. He closed out his prep career by winning the hammer title at New Balance Nationals Outdoor, throwing the implement 228-6.

A member of the Lincoln High's Student Council along with serving as a peer tutor, Toro has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and helped his school win the RIIL Peanut Butter Drive three years running. Also a participant in RIIL Leadership Workshops for student-athletes, he has donated his time generously to road races throughout the state, performing a wide variety of duties. He has also helped coordinate and direct large invitational meets, both at the scholastic and masters' level. "Christian Toro closed out his senior campaign with a flourish, producing the four best hammer throw performances of his prep career in his final four meets," said Rich Gonzalez, editor at PrepCalTrack.com. He continued that trend all the way to New Balance Nationals Outdoor, where he unleashed his career-best throw in the final round to overtake the event leader en route to a national championship."

Toro has maintained a 3.34 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at Duke 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.

Toro joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Darius Kipyego (2021-22, 2020-21, & 2019-20 St. Raphael Academy) and Conor Murphy (2018-19, Classical 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).

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