

**EPISCOPAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE TEXAS 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 **Karson Gordon** of **Episcopal High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Texas Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Gordon is the first Gatorade Texas Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Episcopal 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 Gordon as Texas' 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, Gordon 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-1, 180-pound junior won the national championship in the triple jump this past season with a leap of 51 feet, 4.25 inches at the Nike Outdoor Nationals. Gordon's personal-best mark of 51-5.75 at the Texas Clyde Littlefield Relays in March ranked No. 1 nationally among prep competitors in 2023. He also won the state title in the triple jump at the TTFCA Meet of Champions, soaring 50-10.

Gordon has volunteered locally on behalf of Navigate Life Texas, a program that provides sports opportunities for those with intellectual or physical challenges. He has also donated his time by distributing food, blankets and clothes after Hurricane Harvey. "Karson Gordon handled the limelight well this spring, emerging as the nation's top triple jumper," said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack.com. "In his biggest meets of the year, Karson consistently hit the 50-foot mark, recorded the best jump of 2023 by a U.S. prep at the Texas Relays and claimed the TTFCA championship in the event before capping his junior campaign by winning gold at Nike Outdoor Nationals."

Gordon has maintained a weighted 3.75 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Gordon joins recent Gatorade Texas Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Pierre Goree (2021-22, Duncanville High School), Bryce Foster (2020-21, Taylor High School), Devon Achane (2019-20, Marshall High School), and Matthew Boling (2018-19, Strake Jesuit College Preparatory), 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.