

**AMERICAN FORK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE UTAH 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 **Daniel Simmons** of **American Fork High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Utah Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Simmons is the second Gatorade Utah Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from American Fork 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 Simmons as Utah'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, Simmons 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 2022-23 Gatorade National Boys Cross Country Player of the Year, the 5-foot-10, 127-pound junior won the national title in the 2-mile run at New Balance Nationals Outdoor this past season with a time of 8:41.23. Simmons also earned All-American honors at NBNO with a sixth-place finish in the mile run. He took second in the 3200-meter run at the Arcadia Invitational with a time of 8:34.14, which ranked No. 2 nationally among prep competitors in 2023 and No. 3 in U.S. prep history. His top 2-mile time of 8:41.10 at the Brooks PR Invitational ranked No. 5 nationally and No. 12 in history, while his 4:07.51 performance in the 1600-meter run at the BYU Invitational ranked No. 22 this spring.

Simmons has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives through his church youth group. He has also donated his time by orchestrating food drives for the underserved and raising money for non-profit organizations. "Daniel Simmons continued on his path as a distance talent to be reckoned with," said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack.com. "His two-mile victory at New Balance Nationals put the finishing touches on a junior campaign which ended with him ranked among the top 15 prep competitors in history in two events."

Simmons has maintained a 3.93 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.

Simmons joins recent Gatorade Utah Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Elias Gerald (2021-22, Westlake High School), Austin Klingler (2020-21, West Jordan High School), Thomas Boyden (2019-20, Skyline High School), and Blake Freeland (2018-19, Herriman 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).