

**YELM HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WASHINGTON 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 **Brayden Platt** of **Yelm High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Washington Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Platt is the second Gatorade Washington Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Yelm 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 Platt as Washington'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, Platt 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, 245-pound junior won the national title in the javelin throw at Nike Outdoor Nationals this past season. Platt's winning effort of 228 feet ranked No. 1 nationally among prep competitors in 2023 and is the No. 28 distance in U.S. prep history. Only 16 prep boys have thrown farther. Platt also earned All-American honors at Nike Outdoor Nationals, putting the shot 64 feet, 0.25 inches, which ranked No. 21 nationally this spring. He won the shot put and finished second in the javelin at the Class 3A state meet, leading the Tornados to the team state championship.

Platt has volunteered locally as a youth track coach and a youth football counselor. "Brayden Platt's return to Nike Outdoor Nationals was a triumphant one—as last year's silver medalist in the javelin, he mined gold this time out, setting a record in the process," said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack.com. "His winning effort in the javelin of 228-0 feet not only secured the win, it also broke the state junior class record."

Platt has maintained a 3.81 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.

Platt joins recent Gatorade Washington Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Jeremiah Nubbe (2021-22 & 2020-21, Rainier High School) and Trey Knight (2019-20 & 2018-19, Ridgefield 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.