

**UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA 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 **Drew Zundell** of **University High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade West Virginia Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Zundell is the second Gatorade West Virginia Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from University 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 Zundell as West Virginia'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, Zundell 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 5-foot-10, 120-pound junior won both an individual and a relay championship at the Class AAA state meet this past season, leading the Hawks to a fourth place finish as a team. Zundell's broke the tape in 1600-meter run with a time of 4:08.44, which ranked No. 33 nationally among prep competitors in 2023. He also anchored the 4x800 relay quartet that won the title in 7:53.44. He took eighth in the 3200 run at the RunningLane Championships with a time of 8:58.84, which ranked No. 84 nationally this spring.

Zundell has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and has donated his time by painting and mailing watercolor cards to nursing homes residents in the community. "Drew Zundell's gradual ascent into the prep distance-running hierarchy this spring resulted in newfound levels of success," said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack.com. "In addition to breaking nine minutes in the 3200-meter event, Drew ultimately won his first state individual title in the 1600, then capped his season by anchoring the Hawks to a state championship in the 4x800 relay."

Zundell has maintained a weighted 4.02 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.

Zundell joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Josh Edwards (2021-22 & 2020-21, University High School), Sebastian Spencer (2019-20, Weir High School), and Gavin Beverage (2018-19, Cabell Midland 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.