MOUNT MIGUEL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATOR ADE CALIFORNIA BOYS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 27, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Brandon Arrington** of **Mount Miguel High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade California Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Arrington is the first Gatorade California Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Mount Miguel High School.

The award, which celebrates the nation's top high school athletes for excellence on the field, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Arrington as California's best high school boys track & field player. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport, touting an all-star group of alumni that includes Alan Webb (2000-01, South Lakes High School, Va.), Kerron Clement (2002-03, Laporte High School, Texas) and Grant Fisher (2014-15 & 2013-14, Grand Blanc High School, Mich.).

The 6-foot-3 180-pound sophomore sprinter swept the 100- and 200-meter events at the state meet this past season, leading the Matadors to a fifth-place finish as a team. Arrington's winning time of 20.55 seconds in the 200 broke the California sophomore class record and ranked No. 3 nationally among prep boys competitors this spring as well as No. 39 in U.S. prep history. His 100 time of 10.33 at the state meet ranked tied for No. 13 nationally in 2024.

A representative at the Grossmont Union High School District Athletic Leadership Conference, Arrington has volunteered locally by assisting at youth track and field meets and instructional clinics. "The race for Gatorade POY in California this year was brutal, as is often the case, but Arrington won a pair of state titles, led his team to a top-five finish in CIF and ranked in the Top 5 and the Top 15 of his two best events, nationally," said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. "The intriguing detail is that he clearly remains a very raw talent, but he made some significant strides in 2024."

Arrington has maintained a B average GPA in the classroom. He will begin his junior year of high school this fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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.

Arrington joins recent Gatorade California Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Rodrick Pleasant (2022-23, Junipero Serra High School), Colin Sahlman (2021-22 & 2020-21, Newbury Park High School) and Nico Young (2019-20, Newbury Park High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

As part of Gatorade's commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$4.9 million in grants to winners across more than 1,900 organizations.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit <u>playeroftheyear.gatorade.com</u> or follow us on social media on Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u>, Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u> and X(Twitter) at <u>x.com/Gatorade</u>.