HILLHOUSE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATOR ADE CONNECTICUT 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 **Khalil Antoine** of **Hillhouse High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Connecticut Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Antoine is the fourth Gatorade Connecticut Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Hillhouse 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 Antoine as Connecticut'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-5, 165-pound senior jumper won national championships in the high jump and triple jump this past season at the New Balance Nationals Outdoor. Antoine set a state record with his winning high jump of 7 feet, 2.25 inches, which ranked No. 2 nationally among prep boys competitors this spring. His winning leap of 51-6.25 in the triple jump also ranked No. 2 nationally, while his season-best time of 14.10 seconds in the 110-meter high hurdles ranked No. 95.

Antoine has volunteered locally as an usher at the Shubert Theatre in New Haven, and he has donated his time as a youth track official. "Antoine won a pair of national championships in the triple jump and high jump this season at the New Balance meet—both distances ranking No. 2 in the nation among prep boys competitors this spring," said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack. "Athletes who can exceed 51 feet in the triple jump and clear over 7-2 in the high jump don't come along very often. For good measure, he clocked a U.S. Top 100 time in the 110 hurdles at the Southern Connecticut Conference Outdoor Championships, where he took silver in that event in addition to winning his two signature jumps.

Antoine has maintained a 4.27 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the College of the Holy Cross 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.

Antoine joins recent Gatorade Connecticut Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Joshua Mooney (2022-23, Stonington High School), Gary Moore Jr. (2021-22, Hillhouse High School), Gavin Sherry (2020-21, Conard High School) and Sean Dixon-Bodie (2019-20, Bloomfield 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 studentathletes, 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>.