

MOUNT AYR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE IOWA 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 **Ryce Reynolds** of **Mount Ayr High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Iowa Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Reynolds is the first Gatorade Iowa Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Mount Ayr 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 Reynolds as Iowa’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-2, 160-pound senior hurdler/sprinter won the 400-meter low hurdles and the 400-meter dash at the Class 1A state meet this past season, leading the Raiders to a fourth-place finish as a team. Reynolds also ran the anchor leg on Mount Ayr’s winning Swedish Medley Relay team and took second in the 200-meter dash. His winning time in the 400 hurdles of 51.68 seconds ranked No. 2 nationally among prep competitors this spring.

A four-year member of the Mount Ayr Student Council, Reynolds served as StudCo president as a senior. He has volunteered locally as a committee leader with the HELP Pod, a youth philanthropy organization. He has also donated his time as a middle school tutor. “Ryce Reynolds’ athletic prowess was on full display this season, culminating with a flurry of gold medals at the state meet,” said Rich Gonzalez, editor for PrepCalTrack. “In addition to a pair of individual victories, he mined gold in the shuttle hurdles relay, as Iowa is one of the few states in the nation that hosts that event at its state meet.”

Reynolds has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom and graduated as his school’s valedictorian. He has signed a national letter of intent to run on scholarship at Stanford University 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.

Reynolds joins recent Gatorade Iowa Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Jackson Heidesch (2022-23, Dowling Catholic High School), Walker Whalen (2021-22, Indianola High School), Nate Mueller (2020-21, Adel-Desoto-Minburn High School) and Logan Jones (2019-20, Lewis Central 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 playeroftheyear.gatorade.com or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.