

**TRINITY ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE KANSAS 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 **Clay Shively** of **Trinity Academy** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Kansas Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Shively is the first Gatorade Kansas Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Trinity Academy.

The award, which celebrates the nation's top high school athletes for excellence on the field, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Shively as Kansas' 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 5-foot-10, 160-pound senior distance talent earned All-American honors at New Balance Nationals Outdoor by taking fifth in the mile run with a time of 4:03.55 this past season. Shively came within 0.03 seconds of becoming the 21st high-school runner to break the 4-minute mile when he finished second at the HOKA Festival of Miles in 4:00.02, which ranked No. 3 nationally among prep competitors this spring. The 2023-24 Kansas Gatorade Boys Cross Country Player of the Year, Shively also earned a Top-10 national mark in the 2-mile event with a personal-best clocking of 8:44.29.

Shively plays guitar and sings while leading a praise and worship band for his church community. In addition he travels to play in a worship collective each summer. He has also volunteered locally by serving as a middle school group leader on a weekly basis. "Clay Shively ran the fastest high school mile in history that's not under four minutes," said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. "An NBNO All-American, he also PR'd in the 2-mile and the 800 this spring, the latter of which ranked No. 21 in the nation in 2024."

Shively has maintained a 3.56 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to run on scholarship at Northern Arizona 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.

Shively joins recent Gatorade Kansas Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Bryce Barkdull (2022-23, Andover Central High School), Casey Helm (2021-22, Madison High School), Tyus Wilson (2020-21, Sterling High School) and Sam Hankins (2019-20, Manhattan 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.