

**CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE LOUISIANA BOYS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 27, 2024) — In its 39<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Paul Catalanatto, Jr. of Catholic High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Louisiana Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Catalanatto, Jr. is the first Gatorade Louisiana Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Catholic 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 Catalanatto, Jr. as Louisiana’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, 180-pound senior javelin specialist launched the nation’s No. 1 throw among prep boys competitors this spring with a personal-best effort of 232 feet, 11.25 inches to win at the Texas Relays. He also took second in the event at the USATF U20 Championships and won a national title at the Nike Outdoor Nationals with a distance of 222-6.75. His U.S. No. 1 throw in 2024 ranks No. 2 in state history. He won the event at the Class 5A state meet, too, lifting the Bears to second place as a team.

Catalanatto has volunteered on behalf of Cajun Crushers, an organization that assists amputees who compete in various sports. Many of the athletes have a different limb amputation, which requires him to adjust his teaching approach based on individual needs. He has also donated his time with the St. Vincent de Paul food kitchen, serving meals to the homeless. “A state title, a national championship and the No. 1 javelin throw in the country this year — I’m not sure what else folks could ask of Paul Catalanatto, Jr.,” said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack.

Catalanatto has maintained a 4.22 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at Louisiana State 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.

Catalanatto, Jr. joins recent Gatorade Louisiana Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Justin Horne (2022-23, John Curtis Christian School), Jack Larriviere (2021-22, Jesuit High School), Kashie Crockett (2020-21, Ouachita Parish High School) and Sean Burrell (2019-20, Zachary 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and X(Twitter) at [x.com/Gatorade](https://x.com/Gatorade).