

**WESTFORD ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MASSACHUSETTS 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 **Paul Bergeron** of **Westford Academy** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Bergeron is the first Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Westford 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 Bergeron as Massachusetts’ 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, 140-pound senior distance talent won the mile and 2-mile runs at the Meet of Champions this past season. Bergeron’s mile time of 4:07.98 ranked No. 39 among prep boys competitors this spring. He also took fourth in the 2-mile at the national Brooks PR Invitational, clocking an 8:39.37, which ranked No. 5 nationally. He earned All-American honors at New Balance Nationals Outdoor, running the anchor leg on Westford’s distance medley relay team, which finished fifth.

A member of the German National Honor Society, Bergeron has volunteered locally as a youth basketball coach. “Paul has been beyond great this year,” said DJ Brock, head coach of Acton-Boxborough High Regional High School. “He competes at 100 percent every time he steps on the track. He has a composure to him that you can see when he runs. Everyone stops to watch him go. He completely dominates.”

Bergeron has maintained a 4.02 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic 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.

Bergeron joins recent Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Nathan Lopez (2022-23, St. John’s Preparatory School), James Donahue (2021-22 & 2020-21, Belmont Hill School) and Alex Fleury (2019-20, Phillips Academy), 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.