

**RAYMOND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MISSISSIPPI 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 **Cooper Rodgers** of **Raymond High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Mississippi Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Rodgers is the first Gatorade Mississippi Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Raymond 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 Rodgers as Mississippi’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 5-foot-9, 161-pound senior sprinter broke the tape in the 200-meter dash as well as the 400 at the Class 4A state meet this past season, leading the Rangers to fifth place as a team. Rodgers’ personal-best time of 46.59 seconds in the 400 ranked tied for 21st in the nation among boys prep competitors this spring. His season-best clocking of 21.20 in the 200 ranked tied for No. 69. He also shared in a 4x400 relay title at states as part of a quartet that ran a 3:25.51.

A member of both his school and church choir, Rodgers has volunteered locally teaching vacation bible school. “A five-time state champion when you include the relay, Rodgers owned a Top 25 national time in the 400 this spring,” said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack. “He also won two events and shared in a relay title at the state meet. Without those points, the Rangers finish 11th instead of top five.”

Rodgers has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at Mississippi 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.

Rodgers joins recent Gatorade Mississippi Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Sterling Scott (2022-23, Starkville High School), Jordan Anthony (2021-22 & 2020-21, Tylertown High School) and Cameron O’Neal (2019-20, Biloxi 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.