

## **BOZEMAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MONTANA 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 **Nathan Neil** of **Bozeman High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Montana Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Neil is the fourth Gatorade Montana Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Bozeman 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 Neil as Montana'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-11, 160-pound senior distance talent set four state records this past season, highlighted by his time of 8:35.32 in the 3200-meter run, which ranked No. 2 nationally among prep competitors this spring and No. 7 in high school history. Neil also set a new state standard in the 2-mile run by taking second at the national Brooks PR Invitational in 8:36.73, which ranked No. 3 nationally in 2024 and No. 9 all-time. His third-place finish in the mile at the HOKA Festival of Miles in 4:00.76 set another state record and his fourth-place finish at Nike Outdoor Nationals earned him All-American honors. The 2023-24 Gatorade Montana Boys Cross Country Player of the Year, he clocked a state-record 4:04.89 at the Class AA state meet in the 1600-meter run, where he also won the 3200 event.

A member of the National Business Honors Society and the Rotary Club, Neil has volunteered locally for the Pack The Sack food insecurity initiative, which provides nutrition and calories to chronically hungry school children. He has also donated his time helping elementary students through Project Connect, which engages in preventative efforts to promote student mental health and wellness. He is deeply involved in his church youth group as well. "While the state of Montana has enjoyed more than its share of national success in prep distance running over the years despite its sparse population, Nathan Neil raised those performance levels to dizzying new heights in 2024," said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack. "Repeatedly traveling to seek out the best invitational competition, Nathan dazzled by smashing four state records and moving into the top 10 in prep history in two events. In addition to his many well-chronicled running exploits, he's truly a great example of a young leader."

Neil has maintained a 3.91 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on scholarship at the University of Washington 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.

Neil joins recent Gatorade Montana Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Weston Brown (2022-23, Bozeman High School), Garret Coley (2021-22, Gallatin High School), Noah Bouchard (2020-21, Huntley Project High School) and Julius Mims (2019-20, Skyview 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).

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