FAITH LUTHER AN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEVADA 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 **Preston Beery** of **Faith Lutheran High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Nevada Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Beery is the second Gatorade Nevada Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Faith Lutheran 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 Beery as Nevada'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-4, 240-pound senior throws specialist swept the discus and shot put events at the Class 5A state meet this past season, leading the Crusaders to third place as a team. Beery set a meet record with his winning effort in the shot of 66 feet, 3 inches and set a personal-best by launching the discus 183-7. He also set a state record in the shot at the Faith Lutheran Throwers Invitational with a mark of 68-10, which ranked No. 7 nationally among prep competitors this spring. He took seventh in the shot at Nike Outdoor Nationals.

Beery has volunteered locally teaching computer coding to kids and as a math tutor. He has also donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through his church. "Preston dominated the throws all season long," said Perryn Hale, head coach of Legacy High School. "His put of the shot at the Faith Lutheran Throwers Invite will be legendary, though. He threw the shot out of the ring into the rocks and the crowd went crazy when we heard the mark announced."

Beery has maintained a weighted 4.21 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of Southern California this fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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.

Beery joins recent Gatorade Nevada Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Derek Meadows (2022-23, Bishop Gorman High School), Kutoven Stevens (2021-22, Yerington High School), Zachariah Branch (2020-21, Bishop Gorman High School) and Justin Watterson (2019-20, Coronado 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 studentathletes, visit <u>playeroftheyear.gatorade.com</u> or follow us on social media on Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u>, Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u> and X(Twitter) at <u>x.com/Gatorade</u>.