

## **BUTLER AREA SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA 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 **Drew Griffith** of **Butler Area Senior High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Griffith is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Butler Area Senior 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 Griffith as Pennsylvania'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, 135-pound senior distance talent set four state records this past season and broke the national prep record in the 1600 at the Class AAA meet, snapping the tape in 3:57.08. Griffith also won the 2-mile event at the national Brooks PR Invitational, clocking an 8:31.46, which is the No. 2 time in prep history. Two weeks earlier, he won the mile at the HOKA Festival of Miles with a time of 3:57.72, which ranked No. 5 in U.S. prep history. The state's two-time Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Cross Country Player of the Year (2022-24), Griffith set another state record at the Arcadia Invitational, taking third in the 3200 in 8:37.43—the No. 7 prep time in history. His sweep of the 1600 and 3200 at states led the Tornados to second place as a team.

A member of the National Honor Society, Griffith has volunteered locally through the Samaritan's Purse initiative, filling shoe boxes with gifts for children in need around the world during the holidays. He has also donated his time with the school district's Backpack Program, which provides food at home for students in need. "Drew Griffith's end-of-season hot streak was unlike any we've ever seen from an American prep distance talent," said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. "Over a span of three weeks against loaded fields, this even-keeled racer shot up the all-time lists in striking fashion. How impressive was he? In the modern era, the greatest miler/2-miler was the freakishly good Lukas Verzbicas, a two-time Gatorade National Player of the Year honoree. Lukas's cumulative time for the two distances is the best ever: 12 minutes, 29.17 seconds. Drew's is 12:29.18."

Griffith has maintained a 4.65 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on scholarship at the University of Notre Dame 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.

Griffith joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Brian DiCola (2022-23, Hatboro-Horsham High School), Gary Martin (2021-22 & 2020-21, Archbishop Wood High School) and Jaden Price-Whitehead (2019-20, Upper Dublin 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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