

**COVENTRY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE RHODE ISLAND 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 **Zack Del Sasso** of **Coventry High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Del Sasso is the first Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Coventry 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 Del Sasso as Rhode Island’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, 195-pound senior throws specialist won the national championship in the hammer throw this past season at New Balance Nationals Outdoors. Del Sasso’s winning effort of 224 feet, 5 inches ranked No. 2 nationally among prep competitors this spring. He also won the hammer at the Class A State meet, leading the Elephants to 12<sup>th</sup> place as a team.

Del Sasso has volunteered locally with the Coventry Unified volleyball and basketball teams, supporting young athletes with physical and intellectual challenges. He has also donated his time with the Special Olympics and on behalf of the Rhode Island Alternative Academy Foundation, supporting students and families who have struggled in traditional educational settings. “Zack trains hard and has accomplished a lot on the athletic field,” said Marc Piette, head coach of Woonsocket High School. “From placing 13<sup>th</sup> at the freshman state meet in the hammer at 76 feet to winning the New Balance National Championships at 224 feet, he’s outstanding.”

Del Sasso has maintained a weighted 4.28 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at Northeastern 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.

Del Sasso joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Christian Toro (2022-23, Lincoln High School) and Darius Kipyego (2021-22, 2020-21, & 2019-20, St. Raphael 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](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).