

AMERICAN FORK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE UTAH 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 **Daniel Simmons** of **American Fork High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Utah Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Simmons is the second Gatorade Utah Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from American Fork 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 Simmons as Utah’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-10, 125-pound senior distance talent set a high school national record in the 5000-meter run this past season with a time of 13:25.86 at the Portland Track Festival. A two-time Gatorade National Boys Cross Country Player of the Year, Simmons won the national title in the 2-mile run at New Balance Nationals Outdoors in a state-record clocking of 8:38.49, which ranked No. 4 nationally among prep competitors this spring. He also set a state record in the 1600-meter run (4:01.27) at the Class 6A state meet, leading the Cavemen to a second-place finish as a team.

Simmons works at a local running store and has volunteered locally chopping and stacking wood for the elderly and sand-bagging to protect against flooding. He has also donated his time organizing fundraising campaigns for both young people and the needy. “Over the last several years, the state of Utah has taken the reins in setting the pace for distance-running supremacy across the 50 states,” said Rich Gonzalez, editor for PrepCalTrack.com. “Daniel Simmons ensured that the trend continued this past season, smashing a national record and rewriting a trio of state records. He graduates as the greatest distance talent in state history, which is saying something.”

Simmons has maintained a 3.93 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to compete on scholarship at Brigham Young 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.

Two-time winner Simmons joins recent Gatorade Utah Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Elias Gerald (2021-22, Westlake High School), Austin Klingler (2020-21, West Jordan High School) and Thomas Boyden (2019-20, Skyline 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.