## CORVALLIS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MONTANA BOYS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**CHICAGO** (June 25, 2025) — In its 40<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Hunter Loesch** of **Corvallis High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Montana Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation's best high school athletes for their success on the field, in the classroom and in the community. The award distinguishes Loesch as Montana's best high school track & field athlete, and he joins an impressive group of alumni that spans CEOs, coaches and star athletes such as Alan Webb (2000-01, South Lakes High School, Va.), Kerron Clement (2002-03, Laporte High School, Texas) and Christian Miller (2023-24, Creekside High School, Fl.).

The 6-foot-4, 215-pound senior throws specialist launched a personal-best in the javelin event at the Western A Division Championships this past season and his effort of 219 feet, 11 inches ranked No. 2 nationally among boys prep competitors this spring. Loesch earned All-American honors in the event with a third-place finish at Nike Outdoor Nationals. He also won the Class A state meet with a throw of 209-4 to lead the Blue Devils to the team title. His 219-11 in May constitutes a state record in the generation since high javelin design was altered in 2002.

Loesch has volunteered locally by helping elderly neighbors with daily chores and tasks. He has also donated his time as a youth T-Ball coach and football camp instructor. "Hunter has matured immensely as an athlete, person and student over the past four years," said Spencer Huls, head coach of Corvallis High School. "His dedication to his craft has been second to none. He is a role model for all student-athletes."

Loesch has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to compete at the University of Montana 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 across 12 different high school sports – 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.

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 \$5.6 million in grants to winners across more than 2,000 organizations.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit <u>playeroftheyear.gatorade.com</u> or follow us on social media on Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u>. Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u> and X(Twitter) at <u>x.com/Gatorade</u>.

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