## MIDLAKES HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEW YORK 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 Aiden Bryant of Midlakes High School is the 2024-25 Gatorade New York 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 Bryant as New York'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 5-foot-11, 140-pound junior jumps specialist won the national championship in the triple jump at Nike Outdoor Nationals this past season soaring to a career-best 51 feet, 2.25 inches, which ranked No. 5 nationally among boys prep competitors this spring. Bryant also earned the long jump and triple jump titles at the Class C state meet, leading the Eagles to a fifth-place finish as a team.

A member in his school's Interact Club, Bryant has volunteered locally planning and supervising youth roller skating parties. He has also donated his time dressing up as Frosty the Snowman for a Christmas-season event in nearby Phelps. "Despite the poor luck of finding headwinds at his major meets, Aiden Bryant created his own current of excellence this spring, including a big performance in winning his first national title," said Rich Gonzalez, editor for PrepCalTrack.com

Bryant has maintained an A average in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school 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>.

###