HARLAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE TEXAS BOYS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 25, 2025) — In its 40th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Tate Taylor** of **Harlan High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Texas 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 Taylor as Texas' 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-2, 165-pound junior sprinter won the Nike Outdoor Nationals 100-meter dash title this past season in a time of 10.10 seconds despite cold and rainy conditions. Taylor delivered the fastest dash double in prep history at the Class 6A state meet. His time of 9.92 in the 100 broke the national record and made him the world No. 1 among U20s. In the 200, his 20.14 clocking is tied for No. 3 in prep history. No other high school boy ranks in the all-time top three of those two events.

Taylor has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics. "Tate Taylor is a singular sensation," said Rich Gonzalez, editor for PrepCalTrack.com. "Only one other high school boy has run a wind legal sub-10 in the 100 and only four others—three-time Olympic medalist Noah Lyles, Olympic gold medalist Michael Norman, the Miami Dolphins' Tyreek Hill and NCAA champion Roy Martin—have run 20.14 or better in the 200."

Taylor has maintained a B-plus 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>.

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