## HERRIMAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE UTAH 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 **Jackson Spencer** of **Herriman High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Utah 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 Spencer as Utah'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, 135-pound junior distance talent ran the anchor leg on the Mustangs' 4x800-meter relay quartet that set a national record of 7:26.12 at New Balance Nationals Outdoor this past season. Spencer finished sixth in the mile at the HOKA Festival of Miles, and his time of 4:02.56 ranked No. 9 nationally among prep boys competitors this spring. His personal-best 3200-meter run time of 8:51.26 ranked No. 27 nationally and his PR in the 1600 of 4:07.06 ranked No. 31.

Spencer has volunteered locally on multiple community service initiatives through his church. "It is rare that a junior competes so successfully in the national context across an array of distances," said Rich Gonzalez, editor for PrepCalTrack.com. "Jackson Spencer mastered the challenge this year and showed his range as a sub-8:52 3200-meter man by anchoring a national record in the 4x800 relay at New Balance."

Spencer has maintained a 3.91 GPA 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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