

**THETFORD ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE VERMONT 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 **Ulysses Junker** of **Thetford Academy** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Vermont 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 Junker as Vermont'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, 165-pound senior sprinter/jumper set a state record in the long jump at the Division 3 state meet with a leap of 23 feet, 10.5 inches. Junker led the Panthers to their sixth straight team title, winning the 100-meter dash in 11.07 seconds and helping the 4x100 relay quartet win that race. Junker also became the first Vermont prep runner to break 11 seconds in the 100 when he clocked a 10.74 record at the Essex Invitational. He won the long jump and 200-meter dash at the New England Outdoor Championships as well, setting his third state record of the spring in the 200 in 21.52.

Junker co-founded 802 Elite, a statewide track club that gives Vermont athletes a platform to compete at the national level. He has worked as an advocate for the VT Coalition for Phone and Social Media-Free Schools and has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives through his church. "Uly is an exceptional athlete and great person," said David Mattern, head coach of White River Valley High School. "He has always been willing to help other athletes work on improving and stays humble throughout all of his success. He raised the standard for his teammates and competitors, alike."

Junker has maintained a 3.71 GPA in the classroom. He will attend Williams College, where he will compete in track & field, beginning this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) 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 playeroftheyear.gatorade.com or follow us on social media on Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade, Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY and X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.

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