HURRICANE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA 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 **Ty Steorts** of **Hurricane High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade West Virginia 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 Steorts as West Virginia'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, 130-pound senior middle distance and distance runner won the 1600- and 3200-meter events at the Class 3A state meet this past season, leading the Redskins to second place as a team. Steorts' 4:06.34 clocking in the 1600 was a personal-best and ranked No. 19 nationally among boys prep competitors this spring. At April's prestigious Arcadia Invitational in California, he PR'd in the 3200 in 8:54.04, which ranked No. 49 in the nation at the time of his selection. A two-time Gatorade West Virginia Boys Cross Country Player of the Year, he also anchored Hurricane's 4x800 relay to a fourth-place finish at states.

Steorts has volunteered extensively on behalf of Meeks Mountain Trails, a non-profit organization that develops mountain biking, hiking and running trails at a local park. He has also donated his time to Backpack Buddies helping to pack meal boxes for low-income students in addition to working with Lulu's Closet and the Ronald McDonald House. "Ty Steorts had a fantastic year to cap his high school career," said Trinity Christian High School head coach John Barnett. "He didn't just win, he was dominant in both the 1600 and 3200. He was undefeated in the 1600 and his only loss in the 3200 came at Arcadia, where he ran against the top talent in the nation and finished sub-nine."

Steorts has maintained a 3.67 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to compete for the University of Tennessee 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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