

Gatorade Arkansas Player of the Year Awards Boys & Girls Club of Benton County Grant Through Gatorade

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Benton County, Arkansas — Bentonville High School graduate and Gatorade Arkansas Boys Track & Field Player of the Year, Matthew Shelly, awarded Boys & Girls Club of Benton County with a \$1,000 grant to help accomplish our mission of enabling all youth to reach their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens.

Sports have seen a double-digit decline over the past decade, largely due to tighter budgets in communities, but young people that participate in sports are found to be happier, healthier and better students. As part of Gatorade's commitment to breaking down barriers in sports, every Player of the Year receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner.

"The Gatorade Player of the Year award highlights student-athletes who set an example both on and off the field," said Josh Lytel, Associate Marketing Manager for Gatorade Player of the Year. "The grants give these athletes a chance to donate to organizations like, Boys & Girls Club of Benton County, that positively impacts the youth in their own communities."

"Youth sports are about so much more than games," said McKayla Hussey, Boys & Girls Club of Benton County Athletic Director. "They build confidence, teach teamwork, and create a sense of belonging that strengthens our whole community. We are incredibly grateful to Matthew Shelly and Gatorade for this generous grant. Opportunities like this will help more of our Club kids step onto the field, discover their potential, and carry those lessons into the community as future leaders."

All 610 Gatorade State Player of the Year recipients are awarded a grant to donate to a social impact partner of their choosing. Each Player of the Year can also submit a video about why their organization is deserving of one of 12 Spotlight Grants, which awards an additional \$10,000 to the organization. To date, Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$5.6 million across more than 2,000 organizations.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
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Gatorade has a longstanding history of serving athlete communities and it's ambition is to continue doing more to create positive change. Most recently, Gatorade announced its Fuel Tomorrow commitment, a multi-year initiative to provide opportunities for everyone to play sports and realize their potential.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow the conversation on X (formerly Twitter) #GatoradePOY. For more on Gatorade Player of the Year Community Grants, the Gatorade Player of the Year, including nomination information, a complete list of past winners and the announcement of the Gatorade National Player of the Year, visit PlayerOfTheYear.Gatorade.com

About Gatorade Player of the Year

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation's most elite high school athletes for their success on and off the playing surface. Gatorade Players of the Year are not only the best in their sports, but they're also leaders in the classroom and in their communities. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport, touting an all-star group of alumni that includes Peyton Manning, Jayson Tatum, Mallory Swanson and Paige Bueckers.

About Boys & Girls Club of Benton County

Boys & Girls Club of Benton County is a 501(c)3 (nonprofit) organization. Our mission is to inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens.

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