

**TRI-VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ALASKA GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 25, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Taylor Eddington of Tri-Valley High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Alaska Girls Track and 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 excellence in sport, academics and community. The award recognizes Eddington as Alaska’s best high school girls track and field athlete and she joins an elite legacy that spans professional athletes and coaches to CEOs, such as Sanya Richards (2001-02, St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Florida), Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone (2015-16 & 2016-17, Union Catholic Regional High School, New Jersey) and Jane Hedengren (2024-25, Timpview High School, Utah).

The 5-foot-5 senior sprinter and hurdler set a state record in the 300-hurdles with a time of 43.31 in the preliminary round of the Division II state meet this past season. Eddington went on to win the 300 hurdles, 100 hurdles and both the 100- and 200-meter dash events at the meet, leading the Warriors to a fourth place finish as a team. She also owns the state’s fastest mark in the 100 hurdles, breaking the tape with a time of 15.03 at the 2026 Brian Young Invitational.

Eddington has volunteered locally as part of a food drive organized through a community food bank, which prepares and distributes food to remote parts of Alaska. “Eddington is the clear-cut favorite for the girls and I don’t think it’s close,” said Phil Leck, head coach of Soldotna High School. “She set the state record in the 300H. Her times were better than her Division I competitors and she won all four of her events at states.”

Eddington has maintained a 3.89 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to compete on scholarship in both track and ice hockey at St. Catherine University in Minnesota this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one state winner from each of the 50 states and Washington D.C., in 12 different sports: football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, baseball, softball, boys and girls soccer, and boys and girls track & field. In total, 610 high school athletes are honored each year. From the pool of state winners, one national winner is selected in each of the 12 sports. 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 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 \$6.4 million in grants to winners across more than 2,200 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](https://www.instagram.com/Gatorade), Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) and X (Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.

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