

CHANDLER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ARIZONA 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 Imani Galera-Young of Chandler High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Arizona 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 Galera-Young as Arizona’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-9 senior broke the state record in the 300-meter intermediate hurdles at the Open State Championships this past season, clocking a time of 40.65 seconds, which ranked No. 4 nationally among prep girls competitors this spring as well as No. 24 in prep history. Galera-Young won both hurdle events and shared in the 4x100 relay title at the Division 1 state meet, leading the Wolves to second place as a team. Her career-best time of 13.53 in the 100 hurdles ranked No. 17 nationally.

A member of the National Honor Society as well as the Black Student Union and the United Sisters Youth Group, Galera-Young has volunteered locally helping to organize Rice-A-Roni food drives for the underprivileged each Thanksgiving. She has also donated her time as an elementary school mentor and tutor. “Galera-Young shined at Open state meet, producing an all-time, Top 25 U.S. prep mark and setting a state record,” said Rich Gonzalez, PrepCalTrack editor. “Her ability to be an elite contributor in both hurdle events as well as the sprint relays makes her a points machine for her team.”

Galera-Young has maintained a weighted 4.23 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to compete on scholarship at the University of Arkansas 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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