

**PROVIDENCE CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE ARKANSAS GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 25, 2026) — In its 41<sup>st</sup> year celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Gabbie Bishop of Providence Classical Christian Academy is the 2025-26 Gatorade Arkansas 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 Bishop as Arkansas’ 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 middle-distance and distance talent won four titles at the AAA Class 3A state meet this past season, winning the 400-, 800-, 1600- and 3200-meter running in leading the Patriots to the team championship. The state’s returning Gatorade Player of the Year, Bishop became the first girl in state history to break the 10-minute barrier in the 3200, clocking a state-record time of 9:59.64 at California’s Arcadia Invitational, which ranked No. 13 nationally among girls prep competitors this spring. At the RunningLane Championships in Alabama, she also broke the state record in the mile with a time of 4:43.96, which ranked No. 24 nationally.

A member of the National Honor Society and President of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter on campus, Bishop has volunteered locally as a swim instructor during the summer as well as coach for a sixth-grade dodgeball team. She has also donated her time by playing the guitar weekly in her worship group and by serving the community in association with her church youth group. “Gabbie Bishop successfully struck the balance between being an excellent teammate and carrying the scoring load when needed,” said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack.com. “Yet she still managed to focus well when elite opportunities presented themselves. Scored 40 points at the state meet to help clinch the title for her team.”

Bishop has maintained a 4.35 weighted 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](http://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](https://x.com/Gatorade).

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