

SMYRNA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE DELAWARE 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 Aaliyah Turpin of Smyrna High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Delaware 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 Turpin as Delaware’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-8 senior sprinter and hurdler earned All-American honors with a second-place finish in the 100-meter high hurdles at Nike Outdoor Nationals this past season. Turpin’s silver-medal-winning time of 13.42 seconds set a state record and ranked No. 9 nationally among girls prep competitors in 2026. She also set the state record in the 100-meter dash at the Art Madric Hall of Fame Invitational in April, clocking a time of 11.51, which ranked No. 32 nationally. Turpin won four titles, including one relay, at the Division I state meet, leading the Eagles to third place as a team.

Turpin has volunteered locally as a youth track coach and has donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church. “Aaliyah Turpin was a scoring machine at the state meet as the leading point-getter on the female side,” said Rich Gonzalez, PrepCalTrack editor. “Her best showing came at the Nike Outdoor Nationals. Competing on her biggest stage, she broke the state record in the high hurdles by taking second in the 100-meter event, earning All-America honors in the process.”

Turpin has maintained a B average in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to compete on scholarship at Texas Tech University 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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