

## **WAYZATA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MINNESOTA 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 Maddie Gullickson of Wayzata High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Minnesota 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 Gullickson as Minnesota’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 state’s returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-8 senior distance talent won a pair of titles at the Class AAA state meet this past season, leading the Trojans to the team state championship. Gullickson broke the tape in the 1600-meter run in a state-record time of 4:41.65, which ranked No. 11 nationally among prep girls competitors this spring. Also the state’s 2025-26 Gatorade Girls Cross Country Player of the Year, she broke the tape in the 3200 as well with a time of 10:13.25, which ranked No. 43 nationally.

An All-Conference selection with the Wayzata Nordic Ski team, Gullickson has performed multiple full-day clinical rotations at a memory care facility as she pursues her CNA certificate. She has also volunteered locally with a Unified Arts class serving physically and intellectually challenged students and she has donated her time as a youth track coach. “Maddie’s range on the track is very impressive and she’s fun to watch in all of her events,” said Lynn Sosnowski, head coach of Edina High School. “She’s fluid and effortless despite pushing her own pace limits, often all by herself (with no nearby opposition).”

Gullickson has maintained a weighted 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to compete on scholarship at North Carolina State 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](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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