

JEFFERSON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MISSISSIPPI 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 Charve Gibson of Jefferson County High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Mississippi 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 Gibson as Mississippi'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-4 junior hurdler and jumper won four titles at the Class 3A state meet this past season, breaking the tape in the 100- and 300-meter hurdles. She also won the long jump and triple jump to score all 40 of her team's points, leading the Tigers to a tie for seventh place as a team. Gibson bounded a wind-aided 40 feet, 10.5 inches in the triple jump at the Pearl Region postseason meet. Her top wind-legal mark of 39-7.75 in the triple ranked No. 64 nationally among prep girls competitors this spring and her PR in the long jump of 19-2 ranked No. 89.

President of the 4-H Club in her community and a Jefferson County CTE Student Ambassador, Gibson has volunteered locally as a youth track coach and mentor. She has also donated her time to Fayette Helping Hands by organizing clothing-donation drives. "One of the most decorated talents nationally to this point in her career as a 48-time All-American and 14-time state champion, Gibson went unbeaten on state soil this spring in the 100 hurdles, long jump and triple jump to position herself as the queen of the Mississippi track scene," said Rich Gonzalez, PrepCalTrack editor.

Gibson has maintained a 3.58 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her senior year of high school 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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