

LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE OREGON 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 Ellery Lincoln of Lincoln High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Oregon 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 Lincoln as Oregon’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).

At the HOKA Festival of Miles earlier this month, the 5-foot-3 junior distance talent broke the tape in the mile with a time of 4:27.65, which ranked No. 1 nationally among prep girls competitors this spring and No. 3 in girls prep history. Lincoln followed that two weeks later with a second-place finish in the 1500-meter run at the USATF Under-20 Championships, shattering her own state record by more than 10 seconds with a time of 4:07.99, which ranked No. 1 nationally in 2026 and No. 6 in history. She eclipsed the state record in the 3000 this spring as well with a 9:06.61 clocking that ranked No. 2 nationally and No. 6 all-time.

Lincoln has volunteered locally with CDH Awareness, which educates the public about Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia, a severe birth defect. She has also donated her time supporting multiple community running events, including the Holiday Half, a half-marathon in Portland and the Ladybug Run. “Look at the resume: A national junior class record in the mile, a state record in both the 1500 and the 3000 and a Top 40 clocking in the 800 that also ranks Top 40 in prep girls history,” said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack.com. “That sounds like the state’s best girls track athlete this spring.”

Lincoln has maintained a 4.05 weighted 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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