

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE RHODE ISLAND 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 Nini Olawuyi of Exeter-West Greenwich High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Rhode Island 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 Olawuyi as Rhode Island’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-10 senior jumper and hurdler won the state championship in the 100-meter hurdles this past season with a time of 15.06 seconds. Olawuyi was also the state champion in the triple jump with a leap of 39 feet, 2 inches, leading the Scarlet Knights to a fifth-place finish as a team. At the Class C Championships, she swept the 100 hurdles, high jump, long jump and triple jump as Exeter-West Greenwich finished in third place.

Olawuyi has volunteered locally at summer youth track and basketball camps in addition to donating her time at junior high track meets. She has also helped fundraise for the Rhode Island Interscholastic Injury Fund, which helps cover medical expenses for athletes injured during competition. “She’s just the quintessential public high school athlete,” said Exeter-West Greenwich coach Craig Main. “She played and starred in three sports (four, counting indoor track), helped lead her soccer and basketball teams to state championships and was always an amazing teammate. And despite all the accolades, she’s stayed humble and appreciative.”

Olawuyi has maintained a B average in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to compete at the University of Rhode Island 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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