

CHAMPLAIN VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE VERMONT 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 Zoey McNabb of Champlain Valley Union High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Vermont 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 McNabb as Vermont’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-7 senior distance talent broke state records in the 1500- and 3000-meter runs this past season in her first year as a competitive runner. McNabb swept the events at the Division I state meet, leading the Redhawks to the team title. Her winning time of 4:28.59 in the 1500 ranked No. 12 nationally among prep girls competitors this spring. She clocked a 9:24.58 in the 3000 in May, knocking almost 16 seconds off the old state standard with a time that ranked No. 4 nationally. Both state records had stood since 1998.

An All-State basketball player for CVU, she has volunteered locally at the Green Mountain Montessori School in Essex Junction in addition to donating her time as a youth basketball coach. “Zoey was fearless this spring, attacking decades-old records and destroying them,” said Mike Mashtare, head coach of Bellows Free Academy. “What made her special was how effortless she made it look with her smooth stride and relaxed running style.”

McNabb has maintained an unweighted 4.27 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to compete on scholarship at the University of Vermont 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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