

HERBERT HOOVER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA 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 Maysen Fletcher of Herbert Hoover High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade West Virginia 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 Fletcher as West Virginia’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 sophomore middle-distance and distance talent swept the 800-, 1600- and 3200-meter events at the Class AAA state meet this past season, leading the Huskies to sixth place as a team. At the Brooks PR Invitational, Fletcher clocked a personal-best time of 4:40.86 in the mile, which ranked No. 17 nationally among prep girls competitors and third in state history. A two-time West Virginia Girls Cross Country Gatorade Player of the Year, she was the 2026 West Virginia Sports Writer Association McCoy award honoree as the state’s best girls track and field performer. Fletcher’s season-best time of 10:09.36 in the 3200-meter run ranks No. 30 nationally and her personal-best time of 4:48.26 in the 1600 ranks No. 68. She capped her spring season with a 13th-place finish in the 2-mile and a 15th-place finish in the mile at New Balance Nationals.

A National Junior Honor Society member, Fletcher has volunteered locally on behalf of the West Virginia Special Olympics and the Charleston Humane Society. She has also donated her time to Leah’s Legacy, a 5K race that honors the life of a late teammate. “I’d have to go with Fletcher (as most deserving of Gatorade POY recognition),” said Matt Cottrill, head coach of Point Pleasant High School. “I think winning the 800, 1600 and 3200 is impressive.”

Fletcher has maintained a 4.6 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her junior 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](https://www.x.com/Gatorade).

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