

GARDNER EDGERTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE KANSAS BOYS TRACK AND FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 26, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Mason Hill of Gardner Edgerton High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Kansas Boys 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 Hill as Kansas’ best high school boys track and field athlete and he joins an elite legacy that spans professional athletes and coaches to CEOs, such as Alan Webb (2000-01, South Lakes High School, Virginia), Kerron Clement (2002-03, Laporte High School, Texas) and Tate Taylor (2024-25, Harlan High School, Texas).

The 6-foot-2, 180-pound senior pole vaulter finished seventh at the USATF Under-20 Championships this past season with a clearance of 17 feet, 5.5 inches. Hill set a personal-best in the event at the Mike Wallace Olathe Invitational, soaring over the bar at 17-6.5, which ranked No. 4 nationally among prep boys competitors in 2026 and is No. 2 in state history. A runner-up at the Class 6A state meet as a sophomore and junior, he broke through this year with a winning clearance of 16-6.

Hill has volunteered locally at Blazer Grounds, a student-run school coffee and juice shop. A member of the Gardner Edgerton National Honor Society, he has also donated his time at Olympus Vault Academy, assisting with daily operations, maintenance and serving as a youth coach. “No one has worked harder at his craft for their high school years than Mason,” said Brian McGee, head coach of Gardner Edgerton High School. “He has worked 365 since his sophomore season on being a truly elite pole vaulter.”

Hill has maintained a weighted 3.88 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to compete on scholarship at the University of Kansas 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.

###