

BELGRADE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MONTANA 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 Wilson Schmidt of Belgrade High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Montana 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 Schmidt as Montana’s 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, 164-pound senior middle-distance talent set a state record in the 800-meter run at the Class AA championships this past season. Schmidt’s time of 1:49.29 ranked No. 17 nationally among prep boys competitors this spring. He earned All-American status at the Nike Outdoor Nationals earlier this month with a fourth-place finish in the 800 (1:50.80). He also won the 400-meter dash at the state meet.

Schmidt has volunteered locally on behalf of the Belgrade Festival of Lights at the Belgrade Senior Center. He has also donated his time to the Special Olympics. “Wilson’s season was monumental,” said Katie Smart, head coach of Skyview High School. “He peaked at the right time and his spring culminated with another all-class record in the 800, a state championship in the 400—which he was not favored to win—and a very crucial leg on Belgrade’s 4x400-meter relay.”

Schmidt has maintained a 3.23 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to compete at Oklahoma State University 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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