

**DEBBIE SMITH CTE ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEVADA 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 Kayden Hulet of Debbie Smith CTE Academy is the 2025-26 Gatorade Nevada 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 Hulet as Nevada’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-1, 245-pound senior thrower won the hammer throw at the USATF Under-20 Championships and the Nike Outdoor Nationals earlier this month. Hulet’s winning effort of 252 feet, 3 inches at Nike Nationals broke his own state record and ranked No. 1 among prep boys competitors in 2026 and No. 6 in prep history. He swept the shot put and discus at the Class 3A state meet and his personal-best throw of 209-1 in the latter at the Northwest Invite ranked No. 6 nationally this spring.

A national qualifier in the Future Business Leaders of America competition, Hulet has volunteered locally designing and coaching within an elementary school cheerleading program for a Title I school. He has also donated his time managing a student store on campus, scheduling employees, tracking stock and overseeing daily operations. “Though the hammer throw is not broadly contested nationally, it’s a fiercely competitive event in the states that do,” said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack.com. “Kayden Hulet’s PR north of 251 feet this spring ranks No. 6 in the history of U.S. boys high school track. That’s just jaw-dropping. He’s also U.S. No. 5 in the discus in 2026. Given that he’s also a dual indoor national champion, it’s safe to say no one else in Nevada has that kind of résumé.”

Hulet has maintained a 4.61 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to compete on scholarship at the University of Mississippi 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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