

**LEGACY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NORTH DAKOTA 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 Zayden Horne of Legacy High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade North Dakota 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 Horne as North Dakota’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-2, 165-pound senior sprinter won the 100-, 200- and 400-meter dashes at the Class A state meet this past season, leading the Sabers to a state title as a team. Horne also ran the second leg on Legacy’s winning 4x100-meter relay quartet. At the BPS boys Invitational, he broke the tape in the 100 with a state-record time of 10.27 seconds. His season-best, wind-legal time of 10.45 seconds ranked No. 73 nationally among prep boys competitors in 2026.

Horne has volunteered locally as part of a community baby drive and has served in the Zion Lutheran Church youth group. “Zayden is the Gatorade Player of the Year in my opinion,” said Rory Beil, head coach at Fargo Davies High School. “He has two years of unbelievable marks, including the best 100 in state history, the fifth-best 200, a leg on a top-five all-time 4x100 relay team and three individual state titles his senior year.”

Horne has maintained a 3.71 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to compete on scholarship at North Dakota 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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