

**SOUTH EUGENE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OREGON 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 Yosuke Shibata of South Eugene High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Oregon 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 Shibata as Oregon’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 5-foot-10, 165-pound junior distance talent won the Class 6A state title in the 1500-meter run with a time of 3:48.56, which ranked No. 3 nationally among prep boys competitors this spring. He placed ninth in the mile at the Brooks PR Meet in Seattle with a time of 4:06.59—one of four occasions in which he ran sub-4:10 for the mile.

Proficient in landscape photography, video editing and videography, Shibata has volunteered locally on behalf of multiple community events that promote childhood educational activities. He has also donated his time helping to coordinate middle school track and field events. “Shibata ranks in the Top 100 among prep competitors nationally in a whopping four events this spring,” said Rich Gonzalez, editor at PrepCalTrack.com. “He sits at No. 3 in the 1500, he’s Top 25 in the 3000, Top 30 in the mile and ranked No. 93 in the 800. Oregon is loaded with distance-running talent, but Shibata is the state’s most broadly impressive track athlete this spring in my view.”

Shibata has maintained a 4.08 weighted GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior 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.

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