

BRANDON VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE SOUTH 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 Mikah Peters of Brandon Valley High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade South 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 Peters as South 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, 135-pound senior middle distance and distance talent earned All-American honors earlier this month with a second-place finish in the 2-mile at the Nike Outdoor Nationals in a personal-best time of 8:45.62, which ranked No. 4 among prep boys competitors in 2026. Peters also won individual state titles in the 800-, 1600- and 3200-meter events at the Class AA state meet this past season, leading the Lynx to second place as a team. He set a personal-best in the 800 with a time of 1:52.37 and a meet record in the 3200 in 8:54.05. The state’s 2025-26 Gatorade Player of the Year in cross country, he also shared in a Sprint Medley Relay crown at states. The 1600 champion at the Dakota Relays with a PR of 4:09.22, he clocked personal-best times in five events this spring, including an 8:48.66 in the 3200, which ranked No. 31 nationally among prep boys competitors this spring.

An active member of his parish community at Embrace Church, Peters is a member of the National Honor Society and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at his school and he’s a peer leader in the latter. He has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics as well as Best Buddies International, through which he donates his time to intellectually and physically challenged youth. “Mikah Peters was a point machine at the state meet, setting a meet record in the 3200 in the process,” said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack.com. “His All-American showing at Nike Outdoor Nationals along with his 1600 win at the Dakota Relays as well as breaking the tape in the Seeded 3200 Race at the Arcadia Invitational were arguably his most impressive among many great performances.”

Peters has maintained a 3.96 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to compete on scholarship at Iowa 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](https://www.x.com/Gatorade).

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