

**CHEYENNE EAST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WYOMING 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 Derek "DJ" Murphy of Cheyenne East High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Wyoming 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 Murphy as Wyoming’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-5, 155-pound senior jumper swept the high jump (6 feet, 7.5 inches), long jump (23-9.5) and triple jump (47-0.75) at the Class 4A state meet this past season, leading the Thunderbirds to a second-place finish as a team. The long jump effort marked a personal-best for Murphy, who also PR’d at the 4A East Regionals with a high-jump clearance of 6-9. He took seventh at the Nike Outdoor Nationals earlier this month, leaping 6-8.75 to earn Second Team All-American honors.

Murphy has volunteered locally for the past four years on behalf of the Capitol City Track Series, a summer program for kids ages 2 to 13. He has also donated his time to the Special Olympics in addition to serving Meals on Wheels during the holiday season. “DJ Murphy swept his jumping events at the state, leading his team to a runner-up finish, and he still had enough in the tank to take seventh in the high jump at the Nike Outdoor Nationals,” said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack.com. “He also PR’d in two of his three disciplines this spring. All in all, that’s a super impressive season.”

Murphy has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to compete on scholarship at the University of Wyoming 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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