GALENA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEVADA GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 24, 2025) — In its 40th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Eleanor Raker of Galena High School is the 2024-25 Gatorade Nevada Girls Track & 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 success on the field, in the classroom and in the community. The award distinguishes Raker as Nevada's best high school girls track & field athlete, and she joins an impressive group of alumni that spans CEOs, coaches and star athletes such as Sanya Richards (2001-02, St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Fl.), Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone (2014-15, 2015-16 & 2016-17, Union Catholic High School, N.J.) and Angelina Napoleon (2022-23, Allegany-Limestone Central School, N.Y.).

The 5-foot-7 senior distance talent set a meet record in the 3200-meter run at the Stanford Invitational this past season, clocking a time of 10:22.11 to rank No. 64 nationally among girls prep competitors this spring. In addition, Raker ranked No. 35 nationally in the 2-mile run (10:23.92) and No. 86 in the 1600 (4:49.45). Also the 2023-24 Gatorade Nevada Girls Cross Country Player of the Year, she took third third in the 800- and won both the 1600 and 3200 at the Class 5A state meet, leading the Grizzlies to fourth place as a team.

A winner of a President's Volunteer Service Award for the past two years, Raker has donated her time locally at the Food Bank of Northern Nevada and with the Special Olympics. She has also served on behalf of The Holland Project, an arts, music and cultural community. "Eleanor finished her track career not only as one of Nevada's most respected distance runners, but also as a true leader who helped elevate girls running in her community," said Candace Lowery, head coach of Damonte Ranch High School. "She was a quiet force on the track, racing everything from middle to long distance with grit and grace."

Raker has maintained a 5.55 weighted GPA in the classroom. She will attend the United States Air Force Academy, where she will compete in cross country and track and field, beginning this fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states across 12 different high school sports – football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field – and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. 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 state 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 \$5.6 million in grants to winners across more than 2,000 organizations.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit <u>playeroftheyear.gatorade.com</u> or follow us on social media on Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u>. Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u> and X(Twitter) at <u>x.com/Gatorade</u>.

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