

KING'S SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WASHINGTON GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 25, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Kimberly Beard of King's School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Washington Girls 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 Beard as Washington's best high school girls track and field athlete and she joins an elite legacy that spans professional athletes and coaches to CEOs, such as Sanya Richards (2001-02, St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Florida), Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone (2015-16 & 2016-17, Union Catholic Regional High School, New Jersey) and Jane Hedengren (2024-25, Timpview High School, Utah).

The 5-foot-7 senior thrower was the top high-school finisher in the 4-kilogram hammer event at the USATF Under-20 Championships this past season, taking third with a launch of 201 feet, 7 inches, which set a state record mark and ranked No. 1 nationally among prep girls competitors in 2026. The throw is also tied for No. 4 in prep history. A three-time Nike Outdoor Nationals champion in the hammer, Beard also won two golds and a silver at the Class 1A state meet, leading the Knights to a fifth straight team title. She won the discus event and shot put while taking second in the javelin. Her discus effort of 153-5 ranked No. 54 nationally this spring.

A member of the King's School drama program, Beard has performed in the spring musical in each of the last two years. She has volunteered locally with the Union Gospel Mission in Seattle and has participated in two service-mission trips, one to Jamaica and one to Nicaragua. "It was an amazing experience to watch Kim compete," said Chase Barthlett, the throws coach at South Whidbey High School. "Not only is she a great competitor, but she's also leagues ahead of her competition."

Beard has maintained a 3.97 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to compete on scholarship at the University of Illinois 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, Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY and X (Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.

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