

**VENTURA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE CALIFORNIA GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 30, 2022) — In its 37th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Sadie Engelhardt** of **Ventura High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade California Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Engelhardt is the first Gatorade California Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Ventura High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Engelhardt as California's best high school girls track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Track & Field Player of the Year award to be announced in July, Engelhardt joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Lolo Jones (1997-98, Roosevelt High School, Iowa), Allyson Felix (2002-03, Los Angeles Baptist High School, Calif.), Robert Griffin III (2006-07, Copperas Cove High School, Texas), Grant Fisher (2014-15 & 2013-14, Grand Blanc High School, Mich.) and Candace Hill (2014-15, Rockdale County High School, Ga.).

The 5-foot-9 freshman won the 1600-meter run at the state championships this past season with a time of 4:36.67, also taking second in the 800. Engelhardt broke the state record in the 1500 by clocking a 4:11.79 at the Portland Track Festival, which ranked as the nation's No. 1 performance among girls prep competitors in 2022. She won the mile at the Arcadia Invitational in 4:35.16, which set a U16 World Record and ranked as the No. 4 clocking in U.S. girls prep history. Engelhardt's en-route 1600-meter time of 4:33.29 in that mile race would constitute the fastest time in California history. She capped her freshman campaign with a national title in the mile at June's Nike Outdoor Nationals crossing the line in 4:38.40.

Engelhardt has volunteered locally on behalf of Runners for Public Lands as well as her school's Greener World Action Team. "Sadie may be one of the best runners in high school history, but she's so much more than that," said Ventura distance coach Tyree Cruz. "She's also a great teammate who loves her team and is always there for them."

Engelhardt has maintained an A average in the classroom. She will begin her sophomore year of high school this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school 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.

Engelhardt joins recent Gatorade California Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Mia Barnett (2020-21, Crescenta Valley High School), Paige Sommers (2019-20, Westlake High School), Jocelynn Budwig (2018-19, Fowler High School), and Tierra Robinson-Jones (2017-18, Bishop O'Dowd High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Gatorade has a long-standing history of serving athlete communities and understands how sports instill valuable lifelong skills on and off the field. Through Gatorade's "Play it Forward" platform, Engelhardt has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national organization of their choosing that helps young athletes realize the benefits of playing sports. Engelhardt is also eligible to submit a short video explaining why the organization they chose is deserving of one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants, which will be announced throughout the year. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

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 Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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