

**CONCORDIA ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MINNESOTA 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 **Shaina Zinter** of **Concordia Academy** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Minnesota Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Zinter is the first Gatorade Minnesota Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Concordia Academy.

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 Zinter as Minnesota'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, Zinter 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-10 senior won the national championship in the heptathlon at the Nike Outdoor Nationals this past season. She punctuated that victory with an 800-meter run time of 2:10.47, which ranked No. 74 nationally among prep girls competitors in 2022 at the time of her selection. Zinter also earned All-American status at Nike Nationals with her runner-up finish in the 400-meter intermediate hurdles in a state-record time of 59.19 seconds, which ranked No. 3 in the country. She broke the tape in the 100-meter high hurdles, the 300-meter intermediate hurdles and the 200-meter dash at the Class A state meet, setting meet records in both hurdles events.

Zinter has volunteered locally on behalf of Feed My Starving Children and the Salvation Army, and she has donated her time as part of multiple community service initiatives through her church. "Shaina is an incredible athlete," said Cameron Quade, head coach of the Trinity School of River Ridge. "One of the things that I have noticed most about her in comparison to other athletes is her attention to detail and her commitment to the process of preparing for competition. She has a great passion for track and field."

Zinter has maintained a weighted 4.12 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of Wisconsin 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.

Zinter joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Nyalaam Jok (2020-21, Annandale High School), Madison Schmidt (2019-20 & 2018-19, Blaine High School), and Emily Kompelien (2017-18, Edina 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, Zinter 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. Zinter 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.