

**LAKE OSWEGO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OREGON 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 **Mia Brahe-Pedersen** of **Lake Oswego High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Oregon Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Brahe-Pedersen is the first Gatorade Oregon Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Lake Oswego 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 Brahe-Pedersen as Oregon'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, Brahe-Pedersen 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 sophomore won two individual events and ran relay legs as part of two victorious quartets at the Class 6A state meet this past season, leading the Lakers to the state championship as a team. Brahe-Pederson raced to the 100-meter title in a wind-aided 11.09 seconds, which now stands as the No. 4 all-conditions clocking in U.S. girls prep history. She also won the 200 in a meet-record 23.25 seconds, while anchoring the 4x100 relay and running the third leg for the winning 4x400 foursome. She capped her season with a national title in the 200 with a time of 23.25 at June's Nike Outdoor Nationals, taking second in the 100 for good measure.

Brahe-Pedersen has served as a role-model guest speaker for middle school students and has volunteered locally feeding the homeless. "Mia has become one of the top sprinters in the country," said Lake Oswego High School coach Vince Kinney. "She's a very hard worker who has put in the time to get better."

Brahe-Pedersen has maintained a 3.95 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her junior 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.

Brahe-Pedersen joins recent Gatorade Oregon Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Kaiah Fisher (2020-21, Hidden Valley High School), Colleen Uzoekwe (2019-20, Westview High School), Gretchen Hoekstre (2018-19, Seaside High School), and Shelby Moran (2017-18, Sherwood 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, Brahe-Pedersen 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. Brahe-Pedersen 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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