

**BALLARD COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE IOWA GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 28, 2023) — In its 38<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Paityn Noe** of **Ballard Community High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Iowa Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Noe is the first Gatorade Iowa Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Ballard Community 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 Noe as Iowa'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, Noe joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Jasmine Moore (2018-19, Lake Ridge High School, Texas), Sydney McLaughlin (2016-17, 2015-16 & 2014-15, Union Catholic High School, N.J.), and Lolo Jones (1997-98, Roosevelt High School, Iowa).

The 5-foot-4 senior won the Nike Outdoor National title in the 5000-meter run in a state-record 16:04.69, the top performance nationally among girls prep competitors in 2023 and the No. 12 in U.S. prep history. Noe also won the Class 3A state championship in the 1500 and 3000 meter events, clocking times of 4:28.80 and 9:38.82, respectively. She also took fifth in a personal-best 4:43.37 at the HOKA Festival of Miles in addition to finishing fourth in the 2-Mile at Nike Outdoor Nationals, crossing the line in a state-record 10:03.78.

A member of the National Honor Society, Noe is a member of the Lutheran Church of Hope youth group and has volunteered locally serving and delivering meals to the unhoused and underserved in addition to coordinating food and personal care donations. She has also donated her time to a vacation bible school and a 4-H group. "Paityn Noe followed a breakthrough cross country season last fall with one of the strongest track resumes assembled by any Iowa prep girl in the last decade," said Erik Boal, editor at DyeStat.com. "She delighted the crowds with her performances at the Drake Relays and Iowa state meet and reaffirmed her elite national status with top-five finishes at the HOKA Festival of Miles and Nike Outdoor Nationals."

Noe has maintained a 4.05 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on scholarship at University of Arkansas 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.

Noe joins recent Gatorade Iowa Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Mackenzie Carney (2021-22, Waukee Northwest High School), Ashlyn Keeney (2020-21 & 2018-19, Liberty High School), and Mackenzie Michael (2019-20, Cedar Falls High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Being a Gatorade Player of the Year means paying it forward for the next generation. Through Gatorade's Play it Forward initiative, every Player of the Year receives a grant to give to one of Gatorade's social impact partners, supporting Gatorade's ambition to fuel the future of sport. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

For nearly 40 years, Gatorade has honored high school athletes at the top of their game as teammates, supporting their communities and achieving academic success. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes and community leaders, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit [playeroftheyear.gatorade.com](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).