

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

CHICAGO (June 25, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Claire Kohler** of **Minnetonka High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Minnesota Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Kohler is the first Gatorade Minnesota Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Minnetonka High School.

The award, which celebrates the nation’s top high school athletes for excellence on the field, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Kohler as Minnesota’s best high school girls track & field athlete. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport, touting an all-star group of alumni that includes Sanya Richards-Ross (2001-02, St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Fla), Sydney McLaughlin (2016-17, 2015-16 & 2014-15, Union Catholic High School, N.J.) and Angelina Napoleon (2022-23, Allegany-Limestone Central School, N.Y.).

The 5-foot-11 senior hurdler/sprinter swept the 100- and 300-meter hurdles at the Class AAA state meet, leading the Skippers to the state team title. Kohler’s clockings of 13.86 and 42.16 seconds, respectively, in those events both ranked No. 2 in state history and among the nation’s top 40 times by a prep girl this spring. She also shared in the Skippers’ Sprint Medley Relay national championship at Nike Outdoor Nationals—a state record clocking of 3:56.23—earning All-American honors in the process.

Kohler has volunteered locally with Feed My Starving Children, a non-profit organization that packs meals for the malnourished worldwide. She has also donated her time as a daycare provider at St. Therese Catholic Church. “Already unbeaten against in-state hurdlers throughout each of the last two seasons, Claire Kohler stamped an exclamation point on her superb prep career by breaking four state records across the last two weekends of the season,” said Rich Gonzalez, editor for PrepCalTrack.com. “She followed historic marks in 100 and 300 hurdles by breaking the state 400-meter hurdles record at Nike Outdoor Nationals in her first try at the event.”

Kohler has maintained a weighted 3.85 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on scholarship at the University of Iowa 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.

Kohler joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Jordyn Borsch (2022-23, Maple Grove Senior High School), Shaina Zinter (2021-22, Concordia Academy), Nyalaam Jok (2020-21, Annandale High School) and Madison Schmidt (2019-20, Blaine High School), among the state’s list of former award winners.

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 \$4.9 million in grants to winners across more than 1,900 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 Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.