

**CENTRAL CASS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NORTH DAKOTA GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 25, 2024) — In its 39<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Elise Wisnewski** of **Central Cass High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade North Dakota Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Wisnewski is the first Gatorade North Dakota Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Central Cass 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 Wisnewski as North Dakota’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-5 senior sprinter won Class B state titles in the 100- and 200-meter dash and finished second in the 400 this past season. Wisnewski also anchored the 4x200 relay quartet, which finished second, while leading the Squirrels to a second-place finish at the Class B State Meet. She clocked the top times in the state this season in the 100, 200 and 400.

A member of her school’s Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter and student council member, Wisnewski has donated her time to her school’s food pantry. She has also volunteered locally on behalf of multiple community service initiatives through her church. “She has stood out at every single meet that I’ve attended, simply by being on an entirely different level,” said Krysten Stutlien, head coach at Grafton Senior High School. “No matter the competition, she’s always been dominant and has crushed her events. Her speed is pretty remarkable and she just looks at ease while she competes. No matter where I am on the track during meets, I’ve always made a point to watch her event because she’s a joy to watch compete.”

Wisnewski has maintained a 3.89 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to run on scholarship at North Dakota State University 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.

Wisnewski joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Kelsie Belquist (2022-23, New Rockford-Sheyenne High School), Anthonett Nabwe (2021-20 & 2020-21, Jamestown High School) and Shelby Frank (2019-20, Red River 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](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 X(Twitter) at [x.com/Gatorade](https://x.com/Gatorade).