

LAKE OSWEGO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE OREGON 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 **Josie Donelson** of **Lake Oswego High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Oregon Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Donelson is the second Gatorade Oregon Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Lake Oswego 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 Donelson as Oregon’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/hurdler swept the 100- and 300-meter hurdles at the OSAA Class 6A State Championships this past season, leading her team to first place. Donelson also clocked a state-record time of 52.83 to win the 400-meter dash, which ranked as the nation’s No. 6 time by a prep girl this spring. Additionally, she helped the 4x100 and 4x400 relay quartets to state championships. In May, she smashed the state record in the 300-meter hurdles by more than a half-second. She also earned All-American honors in the 400 at Nike Outdoor Nationals, where she took second.

Donelson, who serves as President of the school’s Black Student Union, has volunteered locally as youth coach and mentor for the Ultimate Speed Athletics middle school club team. She has also competed for the school’s We The People constitutional law team. “Josie Donelson stepped front and center to take the reins in leading Lake Oswego to a highly successful season,” said Rich Gonzalez, editor for PrepCalTrack.com. “Among the premier long sprinters and long hurdlers in the nation, the versatile star also anchored on relay duty, sparking the Lakers to a state title.”

Donelson has maintained a weighted 3.73 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on scholarship at Vanderbilt 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.

Donelson joins recent Gatorade Oregon Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Mia Brahe-Pedersen (2022-23 & 2021-22, Lake Oswego High School), Kaiah Fisher (2020-21, Hidden Valley High School) and Colleen Uzoekwe (2019-20, Westview 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.