

WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE SOUTH DAKOTA 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 **Nyariiek Kur** of **Washington High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade South Dakota Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Kur is the first Gatorade South Dakota Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Washington 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 Kur as South 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-10 senior hurdler/jumper swept the long jump, the triple jump and the 100-meter hurdles at the Class AA state meet this past season. Kur’s leap of 40 feet, 2.5 inches in the triple represented a personal best in the event. She added a fifth place finish in the high jump at states with a clearance of 5-2, but her PR of 5-7.25 in May ranked No. 92 nationally among girls prep competitors this spring. Her season-best long jump of 19-10 ranked as the nation’s No. 58 all-conditions distance in 2024.

Kur has volunteered locally as a peer tutor. She has also donated her time by spending 15 minutes a day during the academic year reading to kids whose literacy is less facile. She has also served as an instructor and mentor at multiple youth volleyball camps. “Kur proved she’s an elite jumper on a national level this spring,” said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack.com. “Her all-conditions long jump put her among the national Top 60 and her high jump was also a Top 100 mark this past season. Her 34 points at the state meet only add to her bona fides.”

Kur has maintained a 3.8 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to compete on scholarship at North Dakota State University in the 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.

Kur joins recent Gatorade South Dakota Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Gracelyn Leiseth (2022-23, 2021-22, & 2020-21, Hamlin High School) and Jasmine Greer (2019-20, Roosevelt 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.