

## **WILLIAMSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA 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 **Alyssa Sauro** of **Williamstown High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade West Virginia Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Sauro is the first Gatorade West Virginia Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Williamstown 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 Sauro as West Virginia’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 state’s 2023-24 Gatorade Girls Cross Country Player of the Year, the 5-foot junior distance talent won Class A state titles in the 800-, 1,600- and 3,200-meter events this past season and anchored the first-place 4x800 relay quartet as the Yellowjackets won the Class A state championship. Sauro’s season-best clockings in the 3,200 (10:16.44) and the 1,600 (a personal-best 4:49.72) ranked No. 32 and No. 65, respectively, among girls prep competitors nationally this spring.

A member of the National Honor Society as well as her Roads Methodist Church youth group, Sauro has volunteered locally by cleaning up the home football stadium after fall home games. She has also donated her time by writing goodwill messages to the elderly and infirm in her community. “Alyssa is where she is athletically because of hard work and determination,” said Zach Hall, head coach at Williamstown High School. “You can see Alyssa training all over town throughout the summer and winter, running on the roads. She puts in the time and effort to achieve great things.”

Sauro has maintained a 4.06 in the classroom. She has verbally committed to run on scholarship at the University of Tennessee in the fall of 2025.

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.

Sauro joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Irene Riggs (2022-23, 2021-22, & 2020-21, Morgantown High School) and Tori Starcher (2019-20, Ripley 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).