

## **KINDRED HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NORTH DAKOTA BOYS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 27, 2024) — In its 39<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Riley Sunram** of **Kindred High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade North Dakota Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Sunram is the first Gatorade North Dakota Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Kindred 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 Sunram as North Dakota’s best high school boys track & field player. 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 Alan Webb (2000-01, South Lakes High School, Va.), Kerron Clement (2002-03, Laporte High School, Texas) and Grant Fisher (2014-15 & 2013-14, Grand Blanc High School, Mich.).

The 6-foot-5, 295-pound senior throws specialist won two individual state titles at the Class B state meet this past season, leading the Vikings to second place as a team. Sunram launched the discus 196 feet, 4 inches at states, which was the nation’s No. 19 throw among prep boys prep competitors this spring and set a new state record. He also won the shot put with a 61-6 effort. At the Soaring Eagle Invitational in May, Sunram set a Class B state record by putting the shot 64-1, which ranked No. 25 nationally. He is also a four-star football recruit as rated by 247Sports.

A National Honor Society member, Sunram has volunteered locally on behalf of a food bank and as a peer tutor. “Riley is very humble and will continue to represent our state in a positive manner,” said Scott Strenge, athletic director and throwing coach at Wyndmere High School. “It was common to see students and coaches from other schools cheering him on at various meets. He had the greatest discus throw I’ve seen in person in my 25 years of coaching at the state meet.”

Sunram has maintained a 3.91 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play football on scholarship at the University of Minnesota 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.

Sunram joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Brooks Turner (2022-23, Bismarck Century High School), Logan Arason (2021-22, Red River High School), Kaden Pastian (2020-21, Hillsboro High School) and Calob Larson (2019-20, Legacy 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).