

HIGHLAND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE IDAHO BOYS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 25, 2025) — In its 40th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Spencer Van Orden** of **Highland High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Idaho Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation's best high school athletes for their success on the field, in the classroom and in the community. The award distinguishes Van Orden as Idaho's best high school track & field athlete, and he joins an impressive group of alumni that spans CEOs, coaches and star athletes such as Alan Webb (2000-01, South Lakes High School, Va.), Kerron Clement (2002-03, Laporte High School, Texas) and Christian Miller (2023-24, Creekside High School, FL).

The 6-foot-1, 160-pound junior hurdler finished second in the 110-meter high hurdles at the Brooks PR Invitational this past season, clocking a time of 13.45 seconds to set a state record and rank No. 13 nationally among boys prep competitors this spring. Van Orden also won the 110 hurdles and the 300 intermediate hurdles at the Class 6A state meet, leading the Rams to ninth place as a team. His 300 hurdles mark of 36.51 seconds at the state meet is an Idaho record and ranked No. 16 nationally at the time of his selection. He earned All-American status with a sixth-place finish of 51.99 in the 400 hurdles at Nike Outdoor Nationals which ranked No. 19 nationally.

An accomplished swimmer, Van Orden works as a lifeguard during the summertime. He has volunteered locally as a youth track coach. "Spencer is an electric hurdler and sprinter," said Bill Vasas, head coach of Century High School. "He is very technical over the hurdles and has such good acceleration over them. He's a kid you don't want to miss watching when he's running."

Van Orden has maintained a 3.39 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states across 12 different high school sports – 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.

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 \$5.6 million in grants to winners across more than 2,000 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 Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade, Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY and X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.

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