

NATCHEZ HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MISSISSIPPI 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 **Markeith Thompson** of **Natchez High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Mississippi 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 Thompson as Mississippi'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 5-foot-11, 140-pound senior hurdles and jumps specialist won the 110- and 300-meter hurdles at the Class 5A state meet this past season, adding second-place finishes in the long jump and triple jump and leading the Bulldogs to fifth place as a team. His personal-best clocking of 13.50 seconds in the 110 ranked No. 17 among boys prep competitors in 2025.

Elected class president as part of the Student Government Association, Thompson is a member of the National Honor Society as well as his school's Beta club, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, SOAR Leadership group, DECA club, photography club and year book club. He has volunteered locally on behalf of the Natchez Humane Society, the Natchez Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church, Natchez Stewpot and Special Olympics. "Markeith Thompson went unbeaten in both hurdles events in Mississippi and earned All-American honors by making the 110-hurdles' final," said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack.com. "He finished his prep career as a nationally relevant force from the 110 to the 400 hurdles."

Thompson has maintained a 3.6 weighted GPA in the classroom and graduated from Natchez with a dual Associate's degree. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to compete at the University of Southern Mississippi 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.

###