

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

**CHICAGO** (June 25, 2025) — In its 40<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Taylor Wanner of Bowman County High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade North Dakota 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 Wanner as North Dakota'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-9, 145-pound senior middle distance and distance talent swept the 800-, 1600- and 3200-meter events at the Class B state meet this past season, leading the Bulldogs to the team title. Wanner also anchored Bowman County's winning 4x800 relay quartet and helped the 4x400 unit take fourth. He clocked a personal-best 800 time of 1:52.64 at May's Howard Wood Dakota Relays, where he also ran a PR of 4:13.12 in the 1600. He is the Class B state record-holder in the 800 and concluded his prep career as an 11-time state champion across the indoor and outdoor seasons.

Wanner has volunteered locally on behalf of the Salvation Army and also served two years on his school's leadership council. "Taylor is an incredible competitor across a lot of different races," said Killdeer High School head coach Nathan Horgeshimer. "He can run from the front and push the pace, but he's also dangerous in tactical races. Any time he's on the track, there's a chance to see something amazing happen. In addition, he's incredibly humble and well-liked by his opponents."

Wanner has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to compete for North Dakota State University 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](https://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade), Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY) and X(Twitter) at [x.com/Gatorade](https://x.com/Gatorade).

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