

SIoux FALLS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE SOUTH DAKOTA 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 **Paul Hoekman** of **Sioux Falls Christian School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade South 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 Hoekman as South 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 state's returning Gatorade Track & Field Player of the Year, the 6-foot, 255-pound senior took bronze in the shot put at the Nike Outdoor Nationals this past season with a throw of 68 feet, 2.25 inches, earning All-American honors for the second time in his career. At the Class A state meet, Hoekman broke the state record in the shot with a 68-4.5, which ranked No. 5 nationally among prep boys competitors this spring. He also won the Class A discus crown in 169-4, leading the Chargers to the team title. At the Tri-Valley Last Chance Meet, he set another state record, this time in the discus, with a throw of 180-6.

Also a state powerlifting champion, a First Team All-Conference football player and member of his high school's concert and marching bands, Hoekman has volunteered locally on behalf of the Miracle League, Crime Stoppers and Rake The Town events. As a member of his church youth group, he handles AV during services and performs maintenance and repairs at the church housing development. "Paul Hoekman did it again in South Dakota but did it even better as a senior, breaking the state record in both the shot and discus," said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack.com. "He threw 66-5 or better five times this spring, which demonstrates his consistent excellence."

Hoekman has maintained a 3.74 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to compete at 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 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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