

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ALABAMA GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 24, 2025) — In its 40th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Janie Ford** of **St. Paul's Episcopal School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Alabama Girls 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 Ford as Alabama's best high school girls track & field athlete, and she joins an impressive group of alumni that spans CEOs, coaches and star athletes such as Sanya Richards (2001-02, St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Fl.), Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone (2014-15, 2015-16 & 2016-17, Union Catholic High School, N.J.) and Angelina Napoleon (2022-23, Allegany-Limestone Central School, N.Y.).

The 5-foot-10 senior hurdler, sprinter and jumper broke her own state record in the heptathlon at the AHSAA Class 7A state meet this past season, compiling 5,311 points to rank No. 1 nationally among prep competitors this spring at the time of her selection. Ford, who led the Saints to sixth place as a team, also won state titles in the 100-meter hurdles, the 200-meter dash and the long jump before capping her career by breaking the tape in the 300 hurdles with a personal-best time of 41.43 seconds, which ranked as the nation's No. 12 clocking among prep girls in 2025. Her winning heptathlon point total ranks her as the wind-legal No. 21 competitor in U.S. prep history. The state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, she is also the daughter of the 1994-95 State Girls Track & Field Player of the Year Camille (née Root) Ford.

The editor of her school's yearbook and president of the St. Paul's Kindness Club, Ford has donated her time as part of community service initiatives with her Ashland Place United Methodist church youth group. She was also a varsity volleyball captain and an officer in Beta Sigma Chi, a faith and learning organization. "On the heels of winning the pentathlon at New Balance Nationals Indoor, Janie Ford three-peated as state heptathlon champion outdoors, bettering her own state record," said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack.com. "She also added four individual event titles at the state meet to graduate as an 11-time state outdoor champion."

Ford has maintained a 3.7 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to compete at Vanderbilt 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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