

WESTFORD ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MASSACHUSETTS 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 **Abigail Hennessy** of **Westford Academy** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Massachusetts 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 Hennessy as Massachusetts' 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-8 junior middle distance and distance talent earned All-American status at the New Balance National Outdoors in the mile run this past season, and her state-record time of 4:34.69 ranked No. 4 nationally among girls prep competitors this spring. She also won the 800-meter run and the mile at the state Meet of Champions, repeating the double she completed at the Division 1 state meet. Hennessy's clocking of 2:07.18 in the 800 at the state meet ranked No. 33 nationally.

An avid baker of a wide variety of desserts, Hennessy has volunteered locally with City Reach, which serves the homeless in Boston. She has also donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church youth group. "I feel that Abby is at a level seldom seen and may be the best girl that I have seen in my 36 years in Massachusetts," said Steve McChesney, head coach of Newton South High School. "I get excited to see her race each time out."

Hennessy has maintained an unweighted 4.19 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her 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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