

CARLSBAD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE CALIFORNIA 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 **Morgan Herbst** of **Carlsbad High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade California 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 Herbst as California’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-7 senior hurdler set a state record in the 300-meter hurdles at CIF state meet this past season, clocking a time of 39.64 seconds to rank No. 2 in prep girls track history in the event. Herbst also ran the state’s fastest 400 hurdles time of 2025 at the USATF U20 Championships with a 55.78, which ranked No. 1 nationally this spring and No. 5 in girls prep history. She added San Diego Section titles in the 100-meter dash and 300 hurdles and at the CIF open state championships, she scored 11.25 points to lead the Lancers to a fifth as a team statewide.

Herbst has volunteered locally as an instructor with the USATF Junior Mavericks Youth Running Club. She has also donated her time at on-campus youth meets. “Morgan Herbst attained remarkable consistency in an event where even the best struggle to do so,” said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack.com. “Her uncanny ability to repeatedly maintain rhythm over the barriers resulted in five races where she went sub-40.60 in the 300 hurdles. That’s unprecedented at the prep level.”

Herbst has maintained a 3.92 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to compete at the University of Arkansas 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](https://www.instagram.com/Gatorade), Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) and X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.

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